**Biden Admin and Liberal Fact-Checkers Desperately Try to Snuff Out Crack Pipe Outrage** [*Spencer Brown*](https://townhall.com/columnists/spencerbrown/) *Posted: Feb 10, 2022 12:01 AM* The Biden administration seemingly can't do anything right, and instead of improving, it's going after those who tell the truth about its mistakes. Rather than using resources to secure the border, deport illegal immigrant criminals, or address runaway inflation, it's apparently relying on massive in-kind donations from partisan censors who claim the mantle of fact-checkers but are indistinguishable from speech police aimed at protecting Biden's flailing administration.  
 Lead Stories is one such outfit that claims to be an arbiter of truth but is little more than a public relations and censorship arm of the Democratic Party, a clown car of unbelievable political spin and utter nonsense. Their crew is on the warpath against anyone who dares to tell the truth about the Biden administration's disastrous tenure in office and the effects of Biden's feckless leadership.  
 Most recently, the drive-by hatchet crew at Lead Stories decided to go after coverage of another Biden administration disaster: a grant allocation that would award up to $30 million in taxpayer dollars aimed at so-called "harm reduction" programs based on President Biden's stated commitment to "racial equity."  
 As I [reported for Townhall](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/spencerbrown/2022/02/07/biden-launches-grant-program-to-fund-crack-pipe-distribution-under-guise-of-equity-n2602948) at the time the grant application materials were circulating online, among the items that grant funds can be used for are "safe smoking kits/supplies," a bureaucratically sanitized euphemism for a kit that usually includes clean crack pipes.  
 These kits, along with clean needles, disposal containers for used sharps, testing supplies to detect fentanyl, infectious disease tests, vaccination services, and other clean medical supplies, are all aimed at preventing the spread of diseases that are often rampant among drug users who share needles, broken pipes, and other items.  
 But the inclusion of clean crack pipes with other grant-eligible materials was especially noteworthy. First, because such "safe smoking kits" have been offered before at a more local level, including not too far away from D.C. nor Biden's home state of Delaware in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The results were not what was promised, and crack pipes were pulled from the safe smoking kits in future distributions following outcry from the black community.   
 The Biden administration grant program through which safe smoking kits, i.e., crack pipes and other paraphernalia are eligible for purchase — funded by taxpayer revenue as outlined in the American Rescue Plan — is also newsworthy given Hunter Biden's questionable life choices that have more than once been related to smoking crack (or parmesan cheese, apparently).  
 But reporting the truth — that a Biden administration program allocating millions of taxpayer dollars to a program through which clean crack pipes can be purchased and provided to those struggling with drug addiction — has drawn the ire of the White House and partisan hacks who call themselves fact-checkers.  
 After the White House took hits from Townhall and other conservative media outlets for the grant program, Jen Psaki denied from the White House podium that crack pipes were being provided through the program, contradicting an earlier quote from an HHS spokesperson who confirmed pipes would be provided.  
 But damn the truth and unleash the spin-and-cover cycle from Democrat-allied fact-checkers. Biden had again botched a program, criticism was incoming, and the truth had to be buried. Lead Stories quickly released their supposedly "official" ruling on the matter and, unsurprising for the whimpering Democrat lapdogs that they are, stated that the "Biden Administration Is NOT Funding 'Crack Pipes, Heroin' For Drug Use."  
 And because Lead Stories says so, their determination is inexplicably considered final and unimpeachable by Facebook. But their own fact-check does not debunk the claim — nay, the truth — that the Biden administration created and is having its Department of Health and Human Services administer a program that allowed crack pipes to be acquired and distributed. Therefore, Townhall's headline, "Biden Grant Program to Fund Free Crack Pipes for 'Equity,'" is true. Just not in the eyes of the biased and reality-denying fact-checkers at Lead Stories.  
 Their denial runs so deep that when, as Lead Stories included in their fact check, "An HHS spokesman declined to specify what is included in the smoking kits," the fact-checkers took that as proof there are no crack pipes being provided. But anyone with two brain cells to rub together would conclude that HHS is not saying what's in the kits because crack pipes \*are\* part of the covered products. Oh, and don't forget, an HHS spokesperson confirmed that pipes would be provided through the grant program in a statement to our friends at The Washington Free Beacon. But that was earlier, and the truth has to be revised to remove the fact that the Biden administration made a mistake and got caught with a crack pipe in its hand.  
 So Lead Stories twisted the statement to fit their purposes and added a completely subjective claim that "Similar distribution efforts provide mouthpieces to prevent glass cuts, rubber bands to prevent burns, and filters to minimize the risk of disease." Lead Stories links to a typo-ridden [explainer page](https://www.nchrc.org/harm-reduction/crack-use/) for a North Carolina drug information site that describes what is included in only its specific kits.  
 If one instance of a "safe smoking kit" being provided without a clean pipe is enough for Lead Stories to rule out the possibility that the Biden grants will be used to provide pipes to drug addicts, then one story where pipes were provided in safe smoking kits — as was the [anecdote from Maryland](https://www.capitalgazette.com/maryland/annapolis/ac-cn-annapolis-crack-pipe-20210408-20210408-pkf3zugrrja3jmzkblurau5pyu-story.html) quoted in Townhall's story — is enough to revalidate the claim. At least it is according to Lead Stories' utterly pointless "standards."  
 In the rest of their alleged takedown of the not-debunked coverage of Biden's grant program, Lead Stories seems to entirely rest their case on a technicality that as long as the Biden administration doesn't buy crack pipes and carpet bomb the United States with them, the president gets to wash his hands of whatever the grant money he provides is used on — even though the Biden administration sets the standards for what can/must be purchased with Biden bucks awarded through the grant.  
 It's utter nonsense, but it doesn't stop the smug fools at Lead Stories who derive their value from telling Americans they're not actually seeing what they are, in fact, seeing. And while Democrats continue to rant about the dangers of misinformation, it is they who peddle the most absurd statements as supposedly unimpeachable facts. The same power-tripping goons who provide cover for the Biden administration also attack and censor those who point out men can't get pregnant. Their standard is to have no standards, just to advance that which preserves power for their leftist overlords who give them refuge from serious criticism in return.  
 At Townhall, we couldn't care any less what fact-checkers at Lead Stories or anywhere else think. That's why we publish the truth and tell the real stories that the mainstream media and Democrats want ignored. They can try to intimidate us into silence, but thanks to the support of [Townhall VIP](https://townhall.com/subscribe?tpcc=spencercolumn021022) members, we're able to keep telling the truth without fear of being fact-checked into oblivion by the goons at Lead Stories and their Big Tech censor friends. <https://townhall.com/columnists/spencerbrown/2022/02/10/biden-admin-and-liberal-factcheckers-desperately-try-to-snuff-out-crack-pipe-outr-n2603082>   
**02/10/2022 NEWS - Purimis coming - March 17 see** [**below**](#purim)**!**

**Archaeologists Find Rare ‘Balm of Gilead’ Gemstone Near Jerusalem’s Western Wall**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V6lBQPWf-8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V6lBQPWf-8)

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| **"No more fatuous chimera has ever infested the brain than that you can control opinions by law or direct belief by statute, and no more pernicious sentiment ever tormented the heart than the barbarous desire to do so. The field of inquiry should remain open, and the right of debate must be regarded as a sacred right." -- William E. Borah (1865-1940) U.S. Senator (R-ID)** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TS bat Y - Returned home but still ill**  **Pray for BB – Severe sciatic needing procedure.**  **Pray for TH - Knee and Blood pressure problems.**  **Pray for EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 7:11Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers; and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did in like manner with their secret arts. 12For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents; but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. 13And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken.

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| |  | | --- | | **Attorney Reiner Fuellmich's Opening Statements**  **@ Grand Jury, Court Of Public Opinion**  **This is only 18 minutes and you need to watch this to understand the issues**  [**https://rumble.com/vu5ro7-attorney-reiner-fuellmichs-opening-statements-grand-jury-court-of-public-op.html**](https://rumble.com/vu5ro7-attorney-reiner-fuellmichs-opening-statements-grand-jury-court-of-public-op.html)  **For more information and follow up posting of the proceedings:**  [**https://www.grand-jury.net/**](https://www.grand-jury.net/) | |

**SMALLPOX OUTBREAK CONFIRMED**

[*World*](https://halturnerradioshow.com/index.php/en/news-page/world)[*Hal Turner*](https://halturnerradioshow.com/index.php/en/authors/author/HalTurner) *08 February 2022 Hits: 22987*

This article is now UNLOCKED as it was previously for SUBSCRIBERS ONLY so they could get a heads-up before the general public.   Since this news is now being reported by Newspapers in Yemen and in the Arab world, I unlocked this story.

An "outbreak" of Smallpox is now CONFIRMED to be taking place in the Middle East, within the country of Yemen.  It began in November 2021, just a little over two months ago and a lid was clamped down so tight on it that I only started getting info about it now.

It took awhile for blood from the first victim, to be safely transported to a qualified lab, tested, then re-tested, and kept oh-so-very-quiet by Yemen (and Saudi Arabian) authorities when the results came back positive.  Nobody wanted this information to get out.  Now, there are MORE confirmed cases.   Quite a bit more.   It can't be kept secret anymore. MORE - <https://halturnerradioshow.com/index.php/en/news-page/world/subscribers-only-covert-intel-smallpox-outbreak-confirmed>

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| Increasing rate of street begging in Sana'a: Press Summary**Tape news**  [*Houthis attack homes in Hodeidah with mortar shells*](https://www.alsahwa-yemen.net/en/p-54439)    [Logo  Description automatically generated](https://www.alsahwa-yemen.net/en/Home)  **Increasing rate of street begging in Sana'a: Press Summary**  2/6/2022 1:34:00 AM الصحوة نت - خاص   1. Seven years of Houthi insurgency have left a humanitarian misery, ruined life and the streets of Sana'a have become flooded with beggars/Aden Alghad website. 2. Yemen national airlines launch the entry of Airbus A330 plane into its fleet./Al-Rashad Press 3. Details of how a senior tribal figure has been physically eliminated in Ibb/Voice of Yemen 4. With Arab coalition support, the army is preparing to take control of Haradh town from Houthis, multiple websites claim. 5. Tribal mediators seek to defuse tensions between the Giants Brigades and the Security Belt militia in Lahj/Maz Press 6. A list of the names of companies that finance the Houthi war against the Yemeni people/Voice of Yemen 7. Deputy governor of Hodeidah tweeted, "There is one way to end the *coup d*'*état* and the threat Houthis pose locally and regionally: To liberate Hodeidah governorate and its seaports from the militia's control. We need a bold decision from the Yemeni government, Saudi Arabia and the UAE with backing from the US" /Yemeni Sport 8. Smallpox is spreading in Sana'a/Aden Aghad 9. An Ethiopian lawyer reveals Houthis are forcing female African students in Yemen to join the militia's war and activities that glorfy sectarianism and terrorism./Okaz 10. Young volunteers are removing Houthi landmines in Osaylan of Shabwa governorate despite the risks/Crater Sky 11. Human rights activists demand the international community to take a firm stance toward the Houthis and put them on the terror list./Yemen Time 12. A 12-year-old child was killed in Hodeidah on Saturday in the explosion of a detonator Houthis had left and he found and began playing with, the Yemeni Observatory on Landmines said./Multiple websites. 13. Houthis are offering incentives to families in Sana'a to get their young members to join the militia's war./Al-Sharq Al-Awsat. 14. Iraq's (armed) Shiit factions wrap up a funds-raising campaign for Houthis in Yemen/Bawabati |

I have seen one other article stating that this is correct. This is most concerning. – rdb]

**Palestinians enter Gaza border zone and set fire to truck before running back**

***No injuries reported in the incident; military says the arsonists never crossed into Israel, stayed on Gazan side of barrier***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 6:51 pm*

Three Palestinian men entered the Gaza border region on Wednesday and threw a Molotov cocktail at an empty Israeli truck that was parked there, setting it on fire, before running back, according to Palestinian media reports and the Israeli military.

There were no reports of Israeli injuries in the incident.

According to the Israel Defense Forces, the suspects approached the border and two of them cut through an old fence to enter into a buffer zone that is controlled by Israel but is still on the Gaza side of the barrier.

Inside the buffer zone, the two suspects went up to an empty truck that was being used for maintenance at the border and set it on fire, the military said. The truck was not an IDF vehicle but belonged to a civilian contractor who was working for the military.

After throwing the Molotov cocktail at the truck, the trio ran back into the Gaza Strip, the military said, noting that the three never crossed the recently completed border barrier.

Video footage of the arson attack that was shared on social media showed thick black smoke pouring out of the vehicle, which was apparently heavily damaged by the fire.

The irregular border incident came amid a relative lull in violence between Israel and Palestinian terror groups in the Strip. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinians-enter-gaza-border-zone-and-set-fire-to-truck-before-running-back/> [The “PA” simply can’t stop inciting problems and destruction of things. “They shall constantly be against their brothers” and it doesn’t matter if they are Jews or Islamics since they can’t get along with each other. - rdb

**Bus driver injured from gunfire in Jerusalem, police chase shooter**

***Israel Police forces are at the scene of the shooting as a chase between police and the culprit, who escaped the area, is on.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *Published: FEBRUARY 9, 2022 20:44 Updated: FEBRUARY 9, 2022 21:31*

A 40-year-old bus driver was lightly injured after gunshots targeting the number 59 bus were heard in Jerusalem on Wednesday night.

There was initial confusion on the nature of the incident, as initial reports suggested stones were thrown towards the bus. However, it was later confirmed to be a [shooting incident](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-695560).

Israel Police forces, including Jerusalem District commander Doron Turgeman, are at the scene of the shooting as a chase between police and the culprit, who escaped the area, is on.

United Hatzalah paramedics treated the bus driver and rushed him to Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Israel's capital for further treatment.

In addition, a woman who was inside the bus at the time of the shooting and is showing [symptoms of PTSD](https://www.jpost.com/health-science/ptsd-treatment-music-therapy-helps-heal-shell-shocked-israelis-668062) is being treated by paramedics.

The motivation behind the shooting is currently unclear. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-695989> [one more attempt at terror. – rdb]

**Sudanese official said to be in Israel on secret visit**

***Unidentified official seeking to advance relations between the countries, according to Kan news***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:13 pm*

A top official of the current Sudanese military government is currently in Israel for a secret visit, Reuters and Kan news reported Wednesday.  
 The unidentified government representative was seeking to advance relations between the countries, the reports said, with Reuters saying he’d arrived at the beginning of the week.  
 The Kan report was unsourced, while Reuters cited an unnamed official with knowledge of the visit.  
 There was no immediate confirmation from Israeli or Sudanese government officials.  
 Sudan’s top general, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who seized power in a coup last year, has said that “Sudan’s relationship with Israel may eventually take a natural form.”  
 In an interview with the Al Arabiya network published in December, he said that normalization with Israel was “necessary to return Sudan to the international community.”  
 It was the military, not the civilian leadership, in Sudan that has played a more active role in advancing normalization with Israel. Al-Burhan had been the more prominent player leading normalization efforts in Israel.  
 Israeli delegations have reportedly visited Sudan several times in recent months.  
 Sudan and Israel agreed to normalize ties in 2020, although progress has been slow amid Sudanese government instability and anti-Israel sentiment among the Sudanese public.  
 Al-Burhan seized power and detained Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok on October 25, 2021, but after international condemnation and mass protests he reinstated the premier nearly a month later, in a deal that many in the pro-democracy movement opposed.  
 However, Hamdok announced his resignation as prime minister last month amid an ongoing political deadlock.  
 “I have tried my best to stop the country from sliding towards disaster,” Hamdok said, addressing the nation. “In view of the fragmentation of the political forces and conflicts between the (military and civilian) components of the transition… despite everything that has been done to reach a consensus… it has not happened,” he said.  
 Sudan “is crossing a dangerous turning point that threatens its whole survival,” he added. Hamdok’s resignation has left the military in sole command of the country, with some [analysts saying](https://www.timesofisrael.com/sudan-pm-quitting-risks-return-to-repressive-policies-analysts-say/) this may lead to even more bloodshed and repressive policies, following months of street protests and violent crackdowns that have claimed at least 57 lives. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/sudanese-official-said-to-be-in-israel-on-secret-visit/> [Interesting that they are trying to “normalize” relations but he still comes in secret so he doesn’t upset any of the anti-Semites. - rdb]

**Top UK Jewish body tells visiting far-right MK Smotrich to ‘get back on a plane’**

***In a Hebrew tweet, the Board of Deputies of British Jews says it rejects Religious Zionism lawmaker’s ‘abominable views and hate-provoking ideology’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:02 am*

A top UK Jewish body said on Wednesday that far-right Religious Zionism MK Bezalel Smotrich is not welcome in the country, as he tours Britain.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, UK Jewry’s mainstream umbrella organization, tweeted in Hebrew that they “reject the abominable views and the hate-provoking ideology of Bezalel Smotrich.”

“We call on all members of the British Jewish community to show him the door. Get back on the plane, Bezalel, and be remembered as a disgrace forever.”

The MK has repeatedly made comments against [Arabs](https://www.timesofisrael.com/smotrich-at-knesset-ben-gurion-should-have-finished-the-job-thrown-out-arabs/) and [gay people](https://www.timesofisrael.com/mk-smotrich-blasted-for-saying-gay-pride-parade-touched-off-virus-wave/) that have provoked outcries.

Smotrich is currently on a tour of Jewish communities in the UK and France to rally opposition to the government’s plan for major reforms of state-controlled Jewish religious services. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/top-uk-jewish-body-tells-visiting-far-right-mk-smotrich-to-get-back-on-a-plane/> [This is a rather strange and unusual way for the Brits to deal with a Jewish leader visiting them. Obviously the hospitality of Abraham is not part of their plan. Smotrich is rather radical in some of his views and much of the Jewish community particularly outside the land is far more liberal in their thinking. – rdb]

**FM director visits Turkey ahead of possible Erdogan-Herzog meeting — reports**

***Foreign Ministry’s Alon Ushpiz reportedly meets Ibrahim Kalin, a consultant and right-hand man to Turkish leader, to prepare for a potential visit by Israeli president***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:59 am*

A senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official secretly visited Turkey last month ahead of a possible visit by President Isaac Herzog, according to a Wednesday report.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said last week that Herzog will visit in March, and the two leaders spoke on Sunday, but there has been no confirmation from Israel that Herzog will visit Turkey.

Ties between the two countries appear to be thawing, as Erdogan has made a number of statements about possible cooperation with Israel in recent months.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Alon Ushpiz visited Turkey last month to prepare for a possible visit by Herzog, according to Ynet and Army Radio.

During the trip, he met with top Turkish official Ibrahim Kalin, who serves as a media consultant for Erdogan and is considered his right-hand man and adviser on diplomatic affairs, the report said. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/fm-director-visits-turkey-ahead-of-possible-erdogan-herzog-meeting-report/>

**Israel unveils $1.3 bln plan to reduce cost of living**

***In a press conference in Jerusalem, Bennett, Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman and Economy Minister Orna Barbivai announce tax breaks to working families and customs cut for meat, fish and certain household goods***

*Ynet, Agencies | Updated: 02.09.22, 21:04*

Israel unveiled a $1.3 billion plan to reduce the cost of living on Wednesday, including tax cuts for working families, child-care subsidies and streamlined regulation to stimulate price-cutting competition for products.

 Rising prices have stirred anger among Israelis struggling to recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting feuding between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's government and leading household goods suppliers and importers.

In a televised press conference alongside Bennett, Finance Minister Avigdor Lieberman said the new plan, worth 4.4 billion shekels ($1.37 billion), would save the average Israeli family around 10,488 shekels ($3,270) a year.

Economy Minister Orna Barbivai, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman announcing economic plan (Photo: GPO)

The plan also includes a reduction in the cost of state-provided electricity and the elimination of customs fees on a range of food imports.

Bennett said the plan put working families in the focus of his government with an intention of encouraging Israelis to work and ensuring they can enjoy an honorable existence.

The plan did not specify government assistance to businesses negatively affected by the COVID pandemic but Liberman said those would be addressed in the near future, according to calculations of real need. <https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/rkzp5twkq> [That is a nice increase but for those who lost businesses and literally went head over heals in debt, it is barely a beginning. – rdb]

**Sa’ar: Alleged police spying took place under Likud’s watch, not ours**

***Justice minister says opposition party seems ‘apparently very worried’ by a potential investigation into the matter, and claims Netanyahu is seeking to delegitimize probe***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:59 pm*

Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar on Wednesday distanced the governing coalition from claims that police illicitly surveilled the phones of Israeli citizens, saying the alleged hackings took place under the previous government.

“These are incidents that, if they occurred, are severe. And if they occurred, they occurred several years ago — they did not happen on our watch, but they will be probed without whitewashing on our watch,” he said in an interview with the Walla news site.

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party was in power when the alleged illicit use of NSO’s phone-tapping technology began.  
 Sa’ar asserted that members of the Likud party appeared to be “very worried” by the prospect of an investigation into the allegations and that Netanyahu was aiming to “delegitimize” any commission of inquiry into the affair.  
 Netanyahu has himself called for a full investigation of the matter. But Sa’ar cited disagreements over the type of committee that should be set up to investigate, which would in turn determine its investigative powers. Likud had said President Isaac Herzog should form the committee.  
 “I think they are apparently very worried by an investigation,” Sa’ar said. “Because there is no way under the law that the president sets up commissions of inquiry.  
 “There are two types of committees with powers: a government committee headed by a judge, which I as [justice] minister give powers to, and a state commission headed by a Supreme Court judge,” Sa’ar said.  
 “When they talk of a committee appointed by the president, I understand that they really do not want an investigation, because there is no such thing,” Sa’ar said.  
 The comments were an apparent response to Likud MK Yariv Levin, who [called](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-back-calls-for-state-commission-to-probe-police-spyware-allegations/) on the opposition to rally around Herzog and urge him to appoint a commission to look into the allegations.  
 Asked whether he thought Netanyahu was involved in the publication of the allegations against police, Sa’ar said he would “never say something unless I have an evidential factual basis to say it, so I will not say it.”  
 The Calcalist financial newspaper, which has not cited any sources or evidence, reported Monday that spyware was deployed without the required judicial oversight against senior government officials, mayors, activist leaders, journalists, as well as Netanyahu’s family members and advisers.  
 Sa’ar also stressed that many of the claims in the report were still merely allegations.  
 “We think it’s good to have free investigative journalism, and in this case it has initiated a process, but… we need to see something more significant that does not yet exist,” Sa’ar said.  
 An [internal police investigation](https://www.timesofisrael.com/only-1-of-26-people-allegedly-spied-on-by-police-successfully-hacked-claims-probe/) into the latest Calcalist allegations submitted to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has so far found that only three of the 26 people named in the report were in fact targeted and only one was successfully hacked.  
 According to Channel 12 news, a court approved the use of spyware in the three cases. It is not known who the three were.  
 Public Security Minister Omer Barlev presented the results of the probe to Bennett during a Tuesday meeting of top government officials to discuss the allegations and consider establishing a state commission of inquiry, which requires full cabinet approval.  
 Several ministers have already voiced their support for a more forceful state commission of inquiry, which could subpoena those involved to testify. Sa’ar, Barlev,Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid in calling for a state commission, though the latter argued that the panel should start by investigating members of the previous government led by Netanyahu.  
 Opposition members, including MKs in Likud, have also called for a state commission, pointing to the reported police targeting of Netanyahu’s family and inner circle as well as witnesses in his criminal trial, which they asserted should be scrapped as a result.  
 Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai on Tuesday again [denied](https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-chief-continues-to-deny-illegal-use-of-spyware-in-face-of-explosive-claims/) that officers used spyware illegally against Israeli public and private figures. Shabtai said the internal investigation he ordered had so far found “no evidence of breaking the law.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/saar-alleged-police-spying-took-place-under-likuds-watch-not-ours/>

**US envoy calls on Lebanon to end maritime border dispute with Israel**

***‘This is the last minute’: Amos Hochstein tells Beirut to make a deal for energy exploration at sea as it contends with economic collapse and energy shortages***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *10 February 2022, 12:58 am*

US envoy Amos Hochstein urged Lebanese authorities Wednesday to settle a maritime border dispute with Israel, saying it was the “last minute” for an agreement that could facilitate hydrocarbon exploration at sea.

Longtime foes Israel and Lebanon have no diplomatic relations and are technically in a state of war. They each claim about 860 square kilometers (330 square miles) of the Mediterranean Sea as being within their exclusive economic zones.

“I think that we’re at the moment of narrowing those gaps towards a deal,” Hochstein told Lebanese broadcaster LBCI in an interview.

“There’s no later anymore. This is the later. This is the last minute,” he added.

Hochstein, the US State Department’s Senior Adviser for Global Energy Security, arrived in Lebanon on Tuesday to revive talks between Lebanon and Israel over a maritime border dispute that is holding up oil and gas explorations.

Israel and Lebanon had resumed negotiations over their disputed maritime border in 2020 but the process was stalled by Beirut’s claim that the map used by the United Nations in the talks needed modifying.

Lebanese politicians hope that commercially viable hydrocarbon resources off Lebanon’s coast could help lift the debt-ridden country out of an unprecedented financial crisis branded by the World Bank as one of the planet’s worst in modern times.

“I am confident that there will be a unified position in Lebanon and that there’ll be a unified position in Israel, and that we’ll be able to move forward,” the Israel-born envoy said.

“My advice to people in Lebanon — focus on not what you’re missing, not what you may lose if you compromise. Think about what you gain,” the he said.

Lebanon is currently grappling with its worst ever financial crisis, and fuel shortages have ground the country to a halt in recent months.

With a bankrupt state unable to deliver more than an hour or two of electricity a day, individuals, businesses and institutions have relied almost entirely on diesel-powered generators.

Both Israel and Lebanon [announced last month](https://www.timesofisrael.com/lebanon-ready-to-resume-maritime-border-talks-with-israel-president-says/) their intentions to resume talks.

Hochstein [met with Israel’s Energy Minister](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-envoy-meets-israeli-energy-minister-over-lebanon-maritime-dispute/) Karine Alharrar last month.

In October, the leader of Lebanon’s powerful Hezbollah terror group, Hassan Nasrallah, [warned Israel](https://www.timesofisrael.com/nasrallah-warns-israel-against-searching-for-gas-in-disputed-maritime-region/) against unilaterally searching for natural gas in the disputed maritime region before any agreement is reached. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-envoy-calls-on-lebanon-to-end-maritime-border-dispute-with-israel/>

**Escape plan found in Palestinian security prisoners’ cell in Ofer Prison**

***Public security minister makes revelation as he testifies in probe into Gilboa jailbreak, says last year’s escape showed ‘serious deficiencies’ and multiple failures***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:46 pm*

Public Security Minister Omer Barlev said Wednesday that an escape plan drawn up by prisoners had been uncovered at the Ofer Prison, outside Jerusalem in the West Bank.

The handwritten plan was connected to seven security prisoners from the Hamas terror group, according to Hebrew-language media reports.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/img-20220209-wa0009.jpg)

A piece of paper found in a cell at the Ofer Prison in the West Bank on February 7, 20222 which the Israel Prison Service says details an escape plan (Israel Prisons Service)

Barlev made the revelation of the plan’s discovery as he testified before a committee investigating the escape of six security prisoners last year from the Gilboa Prison in northern Israel.

“I understand that this came as a great surprise to the Israel Prison Service,” Barlev said.

The IPS said in response to Barlev’s comments that during a search on Monday, a plan detailing the security provisions at the facility was found hidden in a cell at the prison.

The prisoners involved were immediately separated and put in isolation in a high-security wing, the IPS said. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/escape-plan-found-in-palestinian-security-prisoners-cell-in-ofer-prison/> [Obviously the Islamic terrorists don’t care for the hotel accommodations even though they are getting paid to stay there. – rdb]

**Justice minister proposes further decriminalizing recreational cannabis use**

***The plan, pending cabinet approval, won’t allow prosecution ‘other than in exceptional cases,’ limit fines to NIS 1,000 and won’t differentiate between first and repeated offenses***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:13 pm*

Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar on Wednesday published a list of proposed new regulations that, if approved, will further decriminalize recreational cannabis use in Israel.

Under the new draft guidelines, recreational marijuana use will not be considered a criminal offense at all, and will become an administrative offense — similar to most traffic violations.

Recreational use of the drug is currently illegal, though the Public Security Ministry partially decriminalized it in 2017, setting fines and treatment for initial offenders instead of criminal procedures.  
 Under the current rules, first and second offenses are subject to a fine of NIS 1,000 and NIS 2,000 respectively, a third offense requires a conditional settlement deal, and a fourth offense means a possible indictment. Anyone with a prior criminal record can be charged after their first offense.  
 Sa’ar’s proposed new regulations will not allow for prosecution “other than in exceptional cases,” including for people with a criminal record, will limit fines to NIS 1,000, and will not differentiate between first and repeated offenses.  
 Minors, as well as soldiers and police officers in compulsory service, will be excluded from the plan.  
 The current guidelines expire in March, Sa’ar said, and action is required to prevent a reversion to full criminal enforcement of recreational marijuana use.  
 “As we have pledged to the public, self-use of cannabis will not be considered a criminal offense,” he said. “The lack of a policy on the subject makes, in practice, many normative citizens in Israel criminals, violates the rights of the individual and undermines trust between citizens and law enforcement.”  
 In 2020, then-justice minister Avi Nissenkorn [presented](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-announces-plan-to-legalize-recreational-cannabis-within-9-months/) a plan which would have legalized recreational use, but it was shelved due to the government’s collapse and new elections being called.  
 MK Sharren Haskel,  a member of Sa’ar’s New Hope party, [has championed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-hope-mk-threatening-to-buck-coalition-if-cannabis-committee-not-formed/) cannabis decriminalization. She heads a parliamentary committee working to streamline regulations that she says will “put Israel back on the forefront” of the industry.  
 The reforms are expected to remove bureaucratic hurdles for scientists studying cannabinoids, ease restrictions on exports and authorize the marketing of CBD — a cannabis-derived compound legal in much of the US.  
 She has said red tape “has choked the entire market” and driven firms overseas. “It’s almost impossible to have clinical research here in Israel.”  
 It remains unclear whether Haskel’s reforms will be approved. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/justice-minister-proposes-further-decriminalizing-recreational-cannabis-use/>

**COVID-19 booster shot can cause irregular menstrual periods - Health Ministry**

***Women and young people are more susceptible to experiencing the side effects of the booster shot, a Health Ministry study showed.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *Published: FEBRUARY 9, 2022 16:52*

Some 10% of Israeli women experienced irregular menstrual periods after receiving the [COVID-19 booster shot](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-689887), a new Health Ministry study on the side effects of the third vaccine published on Wednesday shows.

The Health Ministry study sought to examine the prevalence of symptoms developed 21 to 30 days after receiving Pfizer's booster vaccine.

Women and young people are more susceptible to experiencing the side effects of the booster shot, the study showed. Additionally, the most common symptom reported in the study is irregular menstruation, with 10% of women up to the age of 54 who participated in the study reporting to have experienced the side effect.

The study found that most side effects reported were extremely mild and passed after three days at the most.

In addition, neurological and allergic reactions were found to be much less common than with previous COVID-19 vaccines as only 4% reported to have experienced such reactions to the vaccine. However, the minority who have experienced allergic and neurological reactions reported having experienced such effects after a longer period of time. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/coronavirus/article-695964> [How about the number of miscarriages that have occurred with the JABS? – rdb]

**Serious COVID-19 cases continue to decline as Omicron further ebbs**

***Health official says exit from latest wave likely to take weeks; 1,161 hospitalized in serious condition; transmission rate drops to 0.79 — lowest since October***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:05 pm*

Indications continued on Wednesday that Israel’s Omicron-driven coronavirus infection wave was receding, with declines in all key metrics.

A senior Health Ministry official quoted by Kan news said Wednesday that while the wave of infection, the country’s fifth, was declining, it would likely take several weeks to recede.

Another unnamed senior official quoted by Kan warned that the current wave would not be the last and that the country should be prepared for a possible sixth, as a more lethal mutation of coronavirus is not out of the question. [Lets keep feeding the terror porn OK? – rdb]

According to Health Ministry data, some 37,559 new coronavirus cases were diagnosed Tuesday, bringing the total number of active cases to 320,470.

With 154,878 tests conducted on Tuesday, the test positivity rate stood at 24.25%. On Saturday, the country saw its highest positivity rate since the beginning of the pandemic, 28.79%.

The number of serious patients continued the gradual decline seen over the past few days, standing at 1,161. Sunday saw the highest number of serious cases since the onset of the pandemic, 1,263. Of those in serious condition, 273 are on ventilators.

The ministry said serious cases were much more common among the unvaccinated: Among unvaccinated patients aged 60 and up, there were 415.6 serious cases per 100,000 people, compared with only 35.9 for their vaccinated counterparts. [Don’t believe that at all. They have redefined unvaccinated. – rdb]

In total, 2,614 people were hospitalized with COVID-19, of whom 350 were in critical condition, according to ministry data.

The transmission rate (measuring the average number of people each infected person spreads the virus to) continued to fall, reaching a value of 0.79 — its lowest figure since October. The transmission rate is based on data from 10 days earlier and any value below 1 shows that the pandemic is shrinking. In December the value shot up to 2.12, but has since been on the decline.

The death toll since the start of the pandemic stood at 9,303, with 19 new fatalities on Tuesday. According to ministry data, 291 people died from COVID-19 in the past week.

Also Wednesday, the IDF announced that military personnel can now receive a fourth dose of COVID vaccine. Anyone serving in the military who is over 18 and is more than four months past their third dose is now eligible. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/serious-covid-19-cases-continue-to-decline-as-omicron-further-ebbs/>

**Israel logs over 1,000 COVID deaths since beginning of 2022**

***Health Ministry says 1,045 patients passed away since start of this year, with 27 single-day deaths on average; adds it diagnosed 37,559 new coronavirus cases on Tuesday, indicating a positivity rate of 24.25%***

*Yaron Druckman | Published: 02.09.22, 15:16*

Israel said Wednesday that over 1,000 coronavirus-related deaths have been reported in the country since the beginning of 2022, in another grim pandemic milestone.

The Health Ministry said some 1,045 people have succumbed to COVID-related complications since the start of this year a little over a month ago, indicating an average of 27 deaths a day.  
 The COVID related fatalities have now reached 9,303 since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in Israel in March 2020, a little less than a week since the country passed the 9,000 death mark. MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/s1pk4ezy9>

**Thousands of rare antiquities recovered in unique pre-dawn raid**

***Complex months-long joint operation leads to arrest of antiquities thief***

*By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY Published: FEBRUARY 9, 2022 16:36 Updated: FEBRUARY 9, 2022 18:12*



Photo of some of the confiscated relics. (photo credit: COGAT SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

Thousands of rare [antiquities](https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/authorities-believe-looted-bar-kochba-artifacts-were-roman-army-spoils-688858) were confiscated and a Palestinian antiquities dealer and thief was arrested in a complex pre-dawn operation in the Nablus area on Monday following a months-long undercover investigation and intelligence surveillance by the Civil Administration ([COGAT](https://www.jpost.com/tags/cogat)).

Rare coins from among the oldest used in the Land of Israel, as well as relics from the Persian and Hellenistic periods and coins from the time of the Great Jewish Revolt were among the confiscated finds. They are estimated to have a value of hundreds of thousands of shekels.

 The joint operation that took place in the village of Qalil near Nablus included forces from the Border Police, the Archaeology Unit of the Civil Administration, the Coordination and Liaison Administration for Nablus and the IDF.

The forces also confiscated equipment used by the suspect in the theft of the antiquities.

According to COGAT, the operation was part of the extensive efforts undertaken by the Civil Administration’s Archaeology Unit over recent years to preserve archaeological finds, and root out the theft of antiquities in the Judea and Samaria area with the help of advanced technology.

Several of the relics found in Nablus. (credit: COGAT SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

“The Civil Administration is pursuing many avenues, both public and confidential, in order to preserve the archaeology of Judea and Samaria,” said Civil Administration head Brig.-Gen. Faris Atila. “Following a long and intricate operation, thousands of rare archaeological items that had been stolen by a specialist in archaeological theft were located. The operation was important, with significance in breaking the chain of traffic in antiquities in Judea and Samaria. The Civil Administration will continue working tirelessly against the shameful phenomenon of destruction and theft at the archaeological sites of Judea and Samaria, protecting the cultural and historical assets of the area.”

The antiquities dealer was arrested and transferred for further interrogation by investigators of the Civil Administration’s Archaeology Unit. An indictment against him is currently being drawn up and will be submitted to the military prosecution. <https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-695963>

**Palestinian authorities step up COVID measures as hospitals fill up**

***After over 64,000 Palestinians on the West Bank test positive for COVID-19 Palestinian Authority health officials say recklessness and indifference of residents to blame for surge***

*Reuters | Updated: 02.09.22, 19:00*

Palestinian authorities have ramped up COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and warned that public indifference to their calls for masking and social distancing is hampering efforts to fight the pandemic.

The Palestinian Authority Health Ministry registered more than 64,000 active cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, in what officials described as an unprecedented daily increase due to the highly infectious Omicron variant.

"Three weeks ago we were recording up to 300 infections daily, but in the last few days we crossed the 11,000 mark," said Mahdi Rashed, director of health services in Ramallah. "It's clear this is a result of the Omicron variant spreading."

Rashed cautioned that the real number of infections is likely higher, because many people are not getting tested, and he blamed the rise on peoples' "recklessness and indifference" by not adhering to health safety rules.

Palestinian Health Minister Mai al-Kaila warned that governmental hospitals in the West Bank were at full capacity on Saturday. In the past week alone, the number of people who were seriously ill more than doubled in Gaza and nearly doubled in the West Bank.

Across Gaza and the West Bank, masking is mandatory inside public offices and government employees are required to get vaccinated, officials said.

But Ahmed Al-Atrash, a 28-year-old resident of the West Bank city of Hebron, where he runs a clothing stand, said public apathy had set in.

"No one cares about corona," he said. "No one stresses about it. They do not care, and this has become a normal thing among Palestinians."

Palestinian authorities in both the West Bank and Gaza have opened more testing sites, approved rapid tests and are urging people to get vaccinated.

Of the 3.1 million Palestinians living in the West Bank, 60% are fully vaccinated, while the rate for Gaza's 2.3 million population stands at 43%, according to health officials. The death toll in the West Bank and Gaza from the virus has reached nearly 5,000. <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/bj00wspzj5> [There are a number of entities that have offered help to the “PA” and those in Gaza including Israel and there was little response by many of these folks and one of the problems was Israel was helping. – rdb]

**State Department approves a possible $70 million military sale to Jordan**

***The US arms deal with Jordan comes at the heels of three additional arm sales to Middle Eastern countries that were announced last week***

*By* [*OMRI NAHMIAS*](https://www.jpost.com/author/omri-nahmias) *Published: FEBRUARY 9, 2022 20:23*

WASHINGTON – The State Department approved a possible foreign military sale to Jordan on Tuesday. According to the State Department’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM), the $70 million deal will include guided multiple launch rocket systems, alternate warheads, unitary rocket pods and related equipment.

“The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale,” the State Department said in a statement. The Jordanian request included 114 guided multiple-launch rocket systems, unitary high explosives, tri-mode fuze (m31) rockets and 114 reduced-range practice rockets.

The deal also includes support equipment, publications and technical data, personnel training and equipment, and other logistical services.

“This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East,” the PM said in a statement.

“The proposed sale will improve Jordan’s capability to meet current and future threats on its borders and provide greater security for its economic infrastructure,” the statement reads. “This sale will provide Jordan with a long-range precision-artillery support capability that will significantly improve US-Jordan interoperability and provide for the defense of vital installations. Jordan will have no difficulty absorbing these additional systems into its armed forces.” [Any thoughts on the US borders?? Obviously NOT. – rdb]

An F-16 fighter jet. (credit: LOCKHEED MARTIN)

According to the announcement, the principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Missile and Fire Control located in Dallas, Texas. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

The deal comes at the heels of three additional [arm sales](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-695483) that were announced last week. The Department of Defense notified Congress of another possible sale of 16 F-16 C/D Block 70 aircrafts, a deal estimated to be worth $4.21 billion.

In addition, the State Department approved a possible sale to Saudi Arabia of Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Low Volume Terminals (MIDS-LVT) and related equipment for an estimated cost of $23.7 million.

The department also approved a possible sale to The United Arab Emirates for Foreign Military Sales Order (FMSO) II Case and related equipment at an estimated cost of $65 million.

“The Defense Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale,” the State Department said.

“It’s no accident that the US is moving now to bolster the defenses of our critical Arab partners," says John Hannah, Senior Fellow at JINSA’s Gemunder Center for Defense and Strategy.

"They’re under sustained assault by an Iranian-backed terror network that is systematically targeting civilian populations and US interests with ballistic missiles and drones flying hundreds of miles and capable of threatening strategic targets in nearly every corner of the Middle East, including Israel," Hannah added. "The unprecedented attacks on the UAE are a momentous development. The United States could wake up tomorrow and find that Dubai’s Burj Al Khalifa, the world’s tallest building, has been taken down by an [Iranian missile](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-695939). It would be a 9/11 moment that would change the world forever. So the Biden administration is now scrambling for ways to deter and prevent it. These arms sales are one part of that effort.” <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-695984> [Considering the current condition of “détente” with a number of the ME countries this may be a reasonable action. 5 years ago it would have been horrifying to be potentially arming those who could be attacking Israel. It wasn’t that long ago that many of these nations, including Jordan were invading the land. – rdb]

**Iran unveils new missile said to put Israel, US regional bases within range**

**Manufactured entirely domestically, solid fuel-powered ‘Khaibar-Shekan’ reportedly able to reach 1,450 kilometers with great accuracy**

By [AP](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) Today, 12:08 pm

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran unveiled a new missile on Wednesday with a reported range that would allow it to reach both US bases in the region as well as targets inside its archfoe Israel. State TV reported that the missile uses solid fuel and has a range of 1,450 kilometers (900 miles).

It is called the Khaibar-buster, a reference to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim warriors in the early days of Islam.

The report said the missile has high accuracy, is manufactured completely domestically, and can defeat missile shield systems. The information has not been independently verified.

Israel’s closest point to Iran is some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away.

The report comes as negotiations continue in Vienna to revive Tehran’s tattered nuclear deal with world powers. Iran, which has long said it does not seek nuclear weapons, insists its missile program is only a deterrent.

The IRGC unveils the Kheibar shekan, a new surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 1450 kilometers. <https://t.co/KkTq9gNIjf> [pic.twitter.com/Gmn1ohfDxE](https://t.co/Gmn1ohfDxE)

— Yossi Mansharof (@Yossi\_Mansharof) [February 9, 2022](https://twitter.com/Yossi_Mansharof/status/1491334796286767107?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Iran has missiles that can travel up to 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles).

Earlier in January Iran tested an engine for a solid-fuel rocket designed to launch satellites. Satellite carriers usually use liquid fuel but solid-fuel rockets can be adapted for mobile launchers that can be driven anywhere on a major road or rail system. Pure solid-fuel rockets are mostly associated with ballistic missiles systems. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-unveils-new-missile-said-to-put-israel-us-regional-bases-within-range/>

**6-year-old child stricken with myocarditis after COVID shot**

***'He was perfectly fine, and then he wasn't'***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published February 9, 2022 at 6:11pm*

Dr. Peter McCullough, a well-known expert on vaccines, is on record [warning](https://amgreatness.com/2021/12/08/dr-peter-mccullough-vaccine-induced-myocarditis-in-young-people-way-more-serious-than-covid-induced-myocarditis/) that myocarditis triggered by the COVID-19 vaccinations is way more serious than the same problem from the China virus itself.

In an interview, he said cases of inflammation of the heart muscle spiked significantly among previously healthy people in nations where COVID shots are used widely.

He explained that myocarditis coming from COVID-19 is relatively "mild" and "inconsequential."

But he said when cases follow the experimental shots, it gets bad.

And he concluded that the risks for children far outweigh the possible benefits.

The situation seems especially alarming when, [a report from Alpha News confirmed,](https://alphanews.org/doctors-said-a-6-year-old-needs-the-covid-vaccine-now-he-has-myocarditis-and-cant-walk/) the victim is a young child.

The report said Milo Edberg, 6, was "alert and walking in early December before he got the COVID-19 vaccine."

Now, with myocarditis, he's in a hospital bed unable to walk.

He got the shot on Dec. 10, and two days later was hospitalized.

His mother, Carrie, told Alpha News, "He was perfectly fine and then he wasn't."

The report explained Milo's life had been a struggle already, as he was born premature and he's battled chronic lung problems his entire life.

He was at the hospital for another issue, and was given the shot, after his mother accepted a doctor's recommendation that it was safe. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/6-year-old-child-stricken-myocarditis-covid-shot/> [This is just one of the many. There is no way on earth any child should get this JAB. It isn’t safe and never has been for adults or children. The mortality of the COV is very low unless you have terrible co-morbidities and the morbidity/mortality of the JAB is much higher than that of the disease itself. There are satisfactory treatments for the problem and while you may be sick for a few days it is better than Russian roulette with your life and your genetics and immune system with this JAB> -rdbb]

**World powers pressed omicron discoverer to exaggerate danger**

***Refusal to recast mild variant led to 'attacks' from politicians, scientists***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published February 9, 2022 at 8:02pm*

The South African scientist credited with discovering the milder omicron variant that is now dominant in Western nations says she was "pressured" by international agencies, politicians and scientists to declare the variant to be more dangerous that it actually is.

 Dr. Angelique Coetzee [told the Daily Telegraph of Australia](https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/coronavirus/omicron-pioneer-dr-angelique-coetzee-pressured-by-world-powers-to-exaggerate-its-seriousness/news-story/32db855f5e9c8b1fdf9dc8eab770f34a) that after publicizing her conclusion that omicron was presenting with mild symptoms for most patients compared to the previous delta strain, she became the target of "attacks."

Dr. Angelique Coetzee

"Because of all of COVID's mutations, all of these scientists and politicians who aren't from South Africa were contacting me telling me I was wrong when I spoke out, that it was a serious disease ... they were telling me I had no idea what I was talking about, they kept attacking me," she told the paper.

Politicians and scientists in Europe, she said, told her, "Please don’t say it is a mild illness."

But her initial assessment, including that it is more contagious, with cases rising and dropping sharply, has borne out in Europe, North America and around the world.

Coetzee said that she resolved to "stick to her guns."

"I will not give in to pressure, and I am not easily intimidated," she said.

The Daily Telegraph noted Coetzee is not the first scientist "to come under attack for attempting to put COVID in perspective."

As [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2021/12/email-collins-asked-fauci-attack-fringe-harvard-stanford-oxford-epidemiologists/), emails recently obtained through a Freedom of Information Act showed then-National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins asked White House coronavirus adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci to carry out a "quick and devastating published takedown" of the Great Barrington Declaration. The project, by epidemiologists from Harvard, Stanford and Oxford described by Collins as "fringe," urged public officials to focus on protecting the high-risk populations and avoiding universal lockdowns. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/world-powers-pressed-omicron-discoverer-exaggerate-danger/> [This should simply confirm to you that there is something much LARGER and more sinister to this China Virus than what people are told by the evil and wicked group at CDC and FDA. This is one more manifestation of the efforts of those in the WEC cabal to continue with their genocidal plan. – rdb]

**Politician who had eight Covid vaccines hospitalized 'on ventilator' – reports**

*The veteran MP said he “felt good” after having received multiple Covid jabs weeks ago*

*By* ***Layla Guest***



Vladimir Zhirinovsky © Sputnik / Press Service of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

*9 Feb, 2022 15:32*

The leader of Russia’s ultra-nationalist LDPR party, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who previously alleged that he had received eight rounds of coronavirus shots, has been rushed to a hospital in Moscow with pneumonia, a number of media outlets have reported.

A source told TASS on Wednesday that the 75-year-old politician had been taken to the heavily guarded Central Clinical Hospital, also known as the Kremlin Clinic, where he has reportedly been convalescing for a few days.

According to the interlocutor, he is in “serious condition,” and some say doctors have diagnosed him with fluid in the lungs. A number of commenters online have speculated he has contracted Covid-19.

Later in the afternoon, newspaper RBK reported that he had been placed on a ventilator. "He is in a very serious condition, critical. Nobody can gives any guarantees [about a recovery]," it quoted an anonymous respondent "close to the party" as saying.

The Telegram channel Mash claimed the LDPR leader was hospitalized with bilateral pneumonia, which developed as a result of Covid-19. According to the outlet’s sources,

*“50 to 75% of his lungs are affected.”*

However, playing down talks of Zhirinovsky’s condition, the party’s press service later said that the politician “feels fine and is continuing to work,” but did not rule out claims that he was in the hospital. [Bet me! If he is on a ventilator he is probably sedated and doesn’t feel much of anything. – rdb]

In December, the politician documented himself getting his seventh Covid-19 jab on his Telegram channel. *“Get vaccinated, friends,*” he urged. *“I’ve already gotten the Sputnik V vaccine, and, this time, CoviVac from the Chumakov Center … in total, it’s my seventh shot since September 2020. And I haven’t been sick with coronavirus once, I feel good.”* He has since claimed to have had an eighth injection. [That tells you just how effective the Jab Is.- rdb]

Zhirinovsky, who has led the LDPR since 1992, has consistently polled as Russia's most popular non-government politician. Just last week, a poll from Levada (recognised as a "foreign agent" by Moscow) placed his "trust rating" at 9%, well ahead of Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov on 4% and Western-backed Alexey Navalny with 3%.

In January, a preliminary joint Russian-Italian study found that Omicron-specific neutralizing antibodies were detected in the blood serum of 74.2% of people who had received Sputnik in comparison with 56.9% of those who had received Pfizer-BioNTech. The research was sponsored by the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which financed Moscow’s Gamaleya Center in developing the formula. [When you take that many JABs your immune system gets trashed and you get into major problems. – rdb]

Russia has faced a surge in the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths in recent weeks and reported a record daily high of 183,103 infections on Wednesday.

The country has recorded over 337,300 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. However, the total excess fatality count stands at 995,000.

Despite rolling out the world’s first Covid jab well over a year ago and making shots easily accessible, just over half of Russia’s population is fully immunized, with its inoculation campaign hit hard due to vaccine hesitancy and reluctance. Authorities have repeatedly set out evidence showing that vaccination is the best way for citizens to prevent being seriously ill as a result of the virus. <https://www.rt.com/russia/548798-politician-covid19-vaccine-hospitalized/>

**Dr. Zelenko: 'We could have ended pandemic long ago'**

***His COVID protocol was adopted by Trump then undermined by Fauci***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published February 8, 2022 at 10:11pm*

[A person with a beard

Description automatically generated with medium confidence](https://static.wnd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/vladimir-zelenko-facebook.jpg)

Dr. Vladimir Zelenko (Facebook)

When Upstate New York physician Dr. Vladimir "Zev" Zelenko [drew the attention of President Trump back in the spring of 2020](https://www.wnd.com/2020/03/doctor-white-house-100-successful-coronavirus-treatment/) with a simple protocol of cheap, proven, widely available drugs for COVID-19 that included hydroxychloroquine, he had successfully treated more more than 350 patients, with only one needing hospitalization.

Nearly two years later, amid continued government and media suppression of early treatments, [Zelenko](https://vladimirzelenkomd.com/) told WND in a video interview that he and his team have administered what is now know as the Zelenko Protocol to more than 7,000 COVID patients, with only three deaths.

Moreover, his cocktail of hydroxychloroquine, the popular antibiotic azithromycin and zinc sulfate – along with other combinations of drugs, such as ivermectin – has been adopted by more than 1,000 physicians around the world, along with [America's Frontline Doctors](https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org/).

Among them are Dr. George Fareed, a former professor of virology at Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Brian Tyson. Since April 2020, they collectively have [treated more than 7,000 COVID-19 patients in California's Imperial Valley](https://www.thedesertreview.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/drs-fareed-and-tyson-followed-the-science-and-saved-hundreds-of-lives/article_a2f8f8e2-6765-11ec-af86-7bb4a9ad8d80.html), with only a few deaths. And no patient died who was treated within the first seven days.

Zelenko has explained that the key virus killer is zinc, [which has a known antiviral effect](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/labs/pmc/articles/PMC6628855/), and it's drugs like hydroxychloroquine, ivermectin and quercetin that  "open the door to the cell and let the zinc in."

Since the spring of 2020, he also has been using blood thinners, steroids, monoclonal antibodies and other treatments, but he said he has never changed his messaging since making his appeal to President Trump.  
 And now he has developed an over-the-counter formulation to treat COVID-19 called Z-Stack that contains zinc, quercetin, vitamin D and vitamin C.  
 The objective, he said, always has been to prevent a COVID-19 infection from progressing to the catastrophic lung injury called acute respiratory distress syndrome, or ARDS, which requires hospitalization and often a ventilator. He found early on that more than 80% of the people with COVID who were put on a respirator were dying. His protocols don't treat ARDS, but they can keep people from ever developing it.  
 Bottom of Form

His approach has been to identify high-risk COVID patients, start treatment immediately with an antiviral and anti-inflammatory combination and tailor the treatment to each patient.  
 In the video interview with WND, Zelenko tells the story of how he appealed to President Trump in a video and 16 hours later received a phone call from Mark Meadows, who was preparing to become the White House chief of staff.  
 "You can't make this stuff up. I wouldn't believe it, but it happened to me," he said.  
 Zelenko then did a podcast interview with Rudy Giuliani, then the president's personal lawyer, that went viral.  
 "And my life has never been the same since," he said.  
 Zelenko since has [published a peer-reviewed paper of his data](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33122096/) showing an 84% reduction in hospitalization of high-risk patients with his out-patient treatment. Teaming with [Prof. Martin Scholz of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf in Germany and Dr. Roland Derwand of Munich, Germany](https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/dr-zelenko-ended-pandemic-long-ago/%E2%80%9Chttps:/thezelenkoprotocol.com/%E2%80%9D), the paper was published in the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents.  
 In the early spring of 2020, in contrast to his current stance, White House coronavirus adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci was amenable to treating COVID-19 with hydroxychloroquine before it became known as "the Trump drug."  
 Fauci [was asked in a March 2020 interview with Philadelphia talk-host Chris Stigall](https://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/c/7/e/c7e72db1f380c197/PODCAST_EXTRA__Dr._Anthony_Fauci.mp3) whether or not he would prescribe hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19.  
 "Yeah, of course, particularly if people have no other option. You want to give them hope," said Fauci, the director the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "In fact, for physicians in this country, these drugs are approved drugs for other reasons. They're anti-malaria drugs and they're drugs against certain autoimmune diseases, like lupus."  
 WND asked Zelenko what he thinks has happened in the meantime.  
 "Well, in the meantime 850,000 Americans are dead, and we could have prevented probably 730,000 of them from even going to the hospital and ended this pandemic globally," he replied, alluding to the finding of his paper. "That's what happened."  
 Prominent [medical scientists such as epidemiologist Dr. Harvey Risch of the Yale School of Medicine also have concluded that many lives could have been saved with early treatment](https://www.wnd.com/2020/11/4871336/).  
 Eventually, Fauci was regularly contradicting the president regarding hydroxychloroquine. And the FDA, in June 2020, [removed emergency use authorization for the distribution of hydroxychloroquine from Strategic National Stockpile, based on "new information."](https://www.fda.gov/media/138945/download) But the decision largely relied on a study published by The Lancet that was embarrassingly [retracted by its authors because of faulty data](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31324-6/fulltext), as [WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2020/06/doctor-journals-retracted-study-trump-drug-political-hit-job/) at the time. Later that year, Risch, Dr. George Fareed and Dr. Peter McCullough [testified to the U.S. Senate](https://www.wnd.com/2020/11/4871336/) that hydroxychloroquine was being misrepresented in studies and used as a political weapon.  
 [Zelenko pointed to a published paper posted on the National Institutes of Health website in 2005](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/labs/pmc/articles/PMC1232869/) showing the antiviral properties of chloroquine against SARS is on the level of a vaccine. Hydroxychloroquine is a less toxic analogue of chloroquine. An [October 2020 paper posted on the NIH website](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/labs/pmc/articles/PMC7534595/) that reviewed published studies found hydroxychloroquine "is effective, and consistently so when provided early, for COVID-19." A [real-time analysis](https://c19hcq.com/), which to date has assessed 283 peer-reviewed studies, has come to the same conclusion.  
 "[But] the NIH today recommends not treating COVID unless you're in the hospital with lung damage," Zelenko said. "Really?"  
 *See the video interview with WND:*  
***A 'foot and a half in the grave'***A once-irreligious Jew who was born in Kiev, Ukraine, Zelenko became an observant member of the 30,000-strong Hasidic community of Kiryas Joel in Monroe, New York, in the Hudson Valley, about 50 miles north of New York City.  
 In 2018, Zelenko was diagnosed with pulmonary artery sarcoma, which has a 100% mortality rate. He had open heart surgery and lost his right lung then had very difficult chemotherapy treatment. Since 2020, he's had another surgery and more chemotherapy.  
 He noted there are only about 10 cases in the world a year of that disease, and they all end with an autopsy.  
 Zelenko believes that after having a "foot and a half in the grave,"  God spared him for a purpose.

In a [March 2020 interview with WND](https://www.wnd.com/2020/03/doctor-white-house-100-successful-coronavirus-treatment/), he summed it up: "My purpose in life has really become to try to relieve pain and suffering. Not to think about myself." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/dr-zelenko-ended-pandemic-long-ago/>

**The leftists' last stand: Vax mandates**

***Andy Schlafly: Despite loosening on masks, lockdowns, governments won't budge on 'passports'***

*By* [*Andy Schlafly*](https://www.wnd.com/author/aschlafly/) *Published February 8, 2022 at 7:41pm*

Amid weeks of the courageous trucker-led Freedom Convoy protest in Canada, many expected its liberal politicians to compromise by now on their vaccine mandates for travel. But mandatory vaccination gives officials so much power that they are unwilling to let go of it.

Vaccine mandates give liberals control over travel, employment, freedom of speech and even our schoolchildren. Already there are laws in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., that authorize controversial COVID vaccination of schoolchildren without parental consent, or even informing parents that injections were done on their children.  
 The District of Columbia's Minor Consent for Vaccinations Amendment Act of 2020 authorizes school officials to vaccinate children as young as 11 years without parental knowledge. The law even instructs insurance companies to hide the procedure on their otherwise required Explanation of Benefits form, thereby concealing from parents what was done to their own children.  
 The vaccine mandates do not cease with the pandemic. Liberals have long sought to end parental authority over children ["beyond the threshold of the school door,"](https://www.phyllisschlafly.com/family/judicial-supremacists-lash-out-at-parents-553/) as the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals proclaimed in 2005 and reaffirmed in 2020. [Vaccine mandates under the guise of public health](https://www.phyllisschlafly.com/family/whatever-happened-to-informed-medical-choice/) attain that leftist goal, and far more.  
 In contrast with their stubbornness on vaccines, Democrats are starting to yield on their mask mandates and lockdowns, with even the New Jersey governor announcing an end to his school mask requirements beginning March 7. A [new study from Johns Hopkins](https://sites.krieger.jhu.edu/iae/files/2022/01/A-Literature-Review-and-Meta-Analysis-of-the-Effects-of-Lockdowns-on-COVID-19-Mortality.pdf) shows that the lockdowns were harmful rather than helpful.  
 While the left retreats on masks and lockdowns, [they will never retreat on vaccine mandates](https://www.phyllisschlafly.com/family/the-phyllis-schlafly-report-february-2001/). It required a 6-3 decision by the Supreme Court last month against Biden's employer mandate before he withdrew that, without admitting he was wrong.  
 Joe Rogan has sometimes offended with his hugely popular podcast, which has a bigger audience than cable news channels, but his questioning of the COVID vaccine is what forced him to retreat with a flurry of apologies. On Monday night [Donald Trump urged Rogan "to stop apologizing to the Fake News and Radical Left maniacs and lunatics."](https://www.donaldjtrump.com/news/news-eykxn28btd1526)  
 In [Rogan's Dec. 30 interview of Robert Malone, M.D.](https://open.spotify.com/episode/3SCsueX2bZdbEzRtKOCEyT), the respected scientist likened mass vaccination to "mass formation psychosis," in which "anybody who questions" the prevailing narrative is attacked. Liberals forced removal of that podcast from Spotify and YouTube, but Rep. Troy Nehls, R-Texas, placed a transcript in the Congressional Record where Nancy Pelosi has not censored it.  
 The independent spirit of truckers is a godsend, and their protest against Canada's vaccine mandate has survived the chilly winter temperatures and bone-chilling politicians. After millions of dollars were donated but blocked by liberal-controlled GoFundMe, millions more have been contributed to the truckers through the Christian alternative, [GiveSendGo](https://www.givesendgo.com/).  
 Left-wing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who got his job based on the name recognition of his father, has smeared fellow Canadians as perpetrating "racist, misogynistic attacks" when they oppose his policies. The truckers responded by calling out the cowardly Trudeau, who fled the capital to hide from the truckers in an undisclosed location. MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/leftists-last-stand-vax-mandates/> [The leftist lost their mind a long time ago when they became convinced that communism works as a system and that they can actually obtain total and complete power and control over the world. - rdb

**Dozens arrested as police & anti-mandate protesters clash (VIDEO)**

***Officers moved to disperse protesters camping outside New Zealand Parliament in solidarity with Canadian truckers***



A woman is arrested as protesters refuse to leave parliament grounds during demonstration against Covid restrictions in Wellington, February 10, 2022 © AFP / Marty Melville

*10 Feb, 2022 02:32*

New Zealand police cracked down on protesters outside Parliament in Wellington on Thursday, arresting more than 50 people after forcibly dispersing the demonstration against Covid-19 restrictions.

Shortly before the scuffles erupted, police threatened the crowd of around 150 protesters with arrest if they refused to leave the area voluntarily. Those who ignored the order were subsequently detained by law enforcement.

Protesters could be seen [chanting](https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220209-clashes-as-new-zealand-police-clear-covid-protest) *“this is not democracy”* and *“shame on you”* as police officers moved in to clear the grounds.

A struggle at Parliament [pic.twitter.com/eaQ8HcXjNg](https://t.co/eaQ8HcXjNg)

— Bryce Edwards (@bryce\_edwards) [February 9, 2022](https://twitter.com/bryce_edwards/status/1491513338282524673?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Protesters are trying to sit down to resist Policing taking back Parliamentary Grounds [pic.twitter.com/f0gCy3byO5](https://t.co/f0gCy3byO5)

— Bryce Edwards (@bryce\_edwards) [February 9, 2022](https://twitter.com/bryce_edwards/status/1491508658215464960?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Footage showed police officers tearing down tents that had been erected by protesters and scuffling with the protesters unwilling to scatter on their own.

Police start taking down protesters tents at Parliament [pic.twitter.com/4n2HSvFxPP](https://t.co/4n2HSvFxPP)

— Bryce Edwards (@bryce\_edwards) [February 9, 2022](https://twitter.com/bryce_edwards/status/1491503638556348416?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

*“Police continue to appeal to protestors to leave Parliament Grounds peacefully, as the area is closed to the public,”* New Zealand Police said in a [statement](https://twitter.com/nzpolice/status/1491556866651930626) on Thursday.

*“We continue to acknowledge people’s rights to protest, however those who behave unlawfully will face arrest,”* the statement continued.

By 11:30 am, New Zealand Police [claimed](https://twitter.com/nzpolice/status/1491556870011506691) to have arrested more than 50 protesters on charges such as trespass and obstruction for remaining on Parliament grounds after they decreed the area closed to the public.

*“Wellingtonians have the right to conduct their lives and go about their business without the interference of ongoing unlawful activity,”* the police declared, warning that *“additional resources”* would be *“deployed from around the country”* to crack down on protests if they continued.

The protesters began [blocking](https://www.rt.com/news/548683-new-zealand-truck-protest-covid/) the streets surrounding New Zealand’s Parliament on Tuesday in a show of solidarity with the truckers and their supporters in Ottawa, Canada who are currently protesting against Covid-19 restrictions and mandates outside the Canadian Parliament as well as on the US-Canada border.

The New Zealand protesters also oppose Covid-19 restrictions in their own country, which include mandatory vaccination for certain professions, including health, education, emergency services, and defense. <https://www.rt.com/news/548854-dozens-arrested-police-protests/>

**Texas probes shutdown of ‘Freedom Convoy’ fundraiser**

***The state’s AG said the crowdfunding platform engaged in “deceitful action” after it froze donations to vaccine mandate protesters in Canada***

*10 Feb, 2022 00:35*

The Texas state government has opened an investigation into crowdfunding platform GoFundMe after the site shut down a campaign on behalf of Canadian truckers in the *“Freedom Convoy,”* a large anti-vaccination mandate protest staged primarily in Ottawa.

The state’s Attorney General Ken Paxton [announced](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-investigates-gofundme-shutting-down-fundraiser-and-taking-10-million-canadian-truckers) the move on Wednesday, saying he would act to “protect Texas consumers” and “get to the bottom of this deceitful action” following the platform’s decision to cancel the Freedom Convoy fund drive.

*“GoFundMe’s response to an anti-mandate, pro-liberty movement should ring alarm bells to anyone using the donation platform and, more broadly, any American wanting to protect their constitutional rights,”* he said, arguing that Texans deserve to *“know where their hard-earned money is going, rather than allowing GoFundMe to divert money to another cause”* without their consent.

Today, I'm announcing an investigation into GoFundMe's actions ⬇️ I will protect [#Texas](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Texas?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) consumers so that they know where their hard-earned money is going. <https://t.co/GVN5wF6Vk5>

— Texas Attorney General (@TXAG) [February 9, 2022](https://twitter.com/TXAG/status/1491446342669205504?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The site halted donations after *“multiple discussions with local law enforcement”* and *“reports of violence and other unlawful activity”* at the trucker-led protest against Covid-19 vaccine mandates. Demonstrators have camped out in the Canadian capital, Ottawa, for over a week – what GoFundMe has described as an *“occupation.”* By the time the campaign shut down, it had raised more than $8 million.

However, while the platform initially said it would issue refunds to donors only if they explicitly requested it – noting that it would otherwise send the money to charities approved by itself and the Freedom Convoy organizers – it has since reversed course. Earlier this week, GoFundMe issued an [update](https://support.gofundme.com/hc/en-us/articles/4417771259163-Freedom-Convoy-2022-Refund-Request-) stating that, *“due to donor feedback,”* refunds would instead be processed automatically.

Two other states have also vowed to launch similar probes. Missouri AG Eric Schmitt [told](https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/texas-missouri-gofundme-freedom-convoy) Fox News on Wednesday that his office would investigate *“GoFundMe’s actions to silence the Freedom Convoy,”* adding *“I will not stand by and allow these big tech firms to perniciously cancel or stifle speech they disagree with.”* Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, meanwhile, previously said that his state would look into the canceled fund drive, accusing GoFundMe of *“deceptive practices.”* [*https://www.rt.com/news/548851-texas-investigation-freedom-convoy/*](https://www.rt.com/news/548851-texas-investigation-freedom-convoy/)[The civilized part of the world must stand up to the fascist leftists in power now, actually around the world, and bring them all down and try them for their criminal behaviors. – rdb]

**Lander held on to vaccine maker stock months into tenure**

*He ultimately sold the holdings within the allotted 90-day window. But ethics officials say it raises questions about his advocacy.*



As a member of the president’s Cabinet, part of Eric Lander’s job was to promote the administration’s vaccination efforts in an effort to fight against the Covid pandemic. | Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

*By* [*Alex Thompson*](https://www.politico.com/staff/alex-thompson)  *02/09/2022 04:30 AM EST*

Serving as Biden’s top science adviser, Eric Lander, the head of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, publicly promoted Covid-19 vaccination efforts while having a significant financial investment in one of the vaccine makers, [according to financial disclosures](https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/PAS+Index/56E9925D4A691F508525874A002E586E/$FILE/Eric-S-Lander-08.25.2021-278T.pdf).

Under the White House’s ethics agreement Lander signed, he had 90 days to divest his stocks after he was confirmed by the Senate on May 28. While Lander shed the bulk of that stock in June — including shares of BioNTech SE, the German biotechnology company and Pfizer’s Covid-19 vaccine partner — he waited until Aug. 5 to sell the remaining $500,000 to $1 million worth of stock he held in that company. When Lander ultimately sold the stock 69 days after his confirmation, it was the company’s second-highest stock price ever at $404.92 a share, having shot up more than $50 a share from two days prior.

As a member of the president’s Cabinet, part of Lander’s job was to promote the administration’s vaccination efforts in an effort to fight against the Covid pandemic. Andin the weeks before that Aug. 5 transaction, he did just that in addition to meeting with Biden about his multibillion-dollar plan to prepare for the next pandemic. MORE - <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/02/09/lander-vaccine-stock-ethics-00007100> [Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! It shouldn’t be. How many other people in DC have investments in those groups? I bet bunches. – rdb]

**'Felonious behavior': Congressman catches Biden admin opening his mail**

***'The Democrats' spying on political opponents appears to know no end'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 9, 2022 at 3:04pm*

The actions of the federal bureaucracy under Democrat presidents has left suspicions abounding in recent years. Recall what happened under Barack Obama when partisans created the now-debunked Russia collusion conspiracy theory.

It was FBI, DOJ and other federal operations that now know their employees were at work on it.

In fact, special counsel John Durham already has obtained one conviction and has filed two other cases over those clandestine operations – and his investigation appears to not have hit its full stride yet.

Then there were the IRS attacks on conservatives under Obama. And more.

Under Joe Biden, there have been all types of claims about misbehavior on the part of his appointees, the Capitol Police, various bureaucrats and more.

But the new claim from U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, appears to take it to an entirely new – and illegal – level.

In an announcement on his [website,](https://gohmert.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=399980) he shared that the executive branch has been intercepting and marking his mail.

"In January, my staff received a letter addressed to my official office from a Christian missionary, which was already opened and stamped 'DOJ MAILROOM' with a date and 'X-RAYED' on the stamp. Last week, my office received a second piece of mail from a constituent, mailed from east Texas and postmarked September 2021. It took four-and-a-half months to reach my office and was also opened and bore a stamp from the DOJ," he explained.

"It is deeply concerning that Legislative Branch mail is somehow being co-mingled with Executive Branch mail when we have completely different proprietary zip codes. We are separate but co-equal branches of government. Even if it were a mistake to deliver Congress’ mail to the DOJ, the DOJ has an obligation to immediately notify Congress and forward the mail without opening it," he said.

"It is gravely concerning that since congressional mail is constitutionally protected under the Speech and Debate Clause of the Constitution, it could be routed, intentionally or not, through the highly partisan DOJ," he said.

"This is felonious behavior."

He said, "Given reports breaking today of an Inspector General's investigation being opened after another Republican member alleged Speaker Pelosi’s Capitol Police were in his personal office photographing his work product, the Democrats' spying on political opponents appears to know no end."

He explained security already is in place with Pelosi demanding congressional offices "to turn in names, dates, and times of our meetings, along with the purpose of the meeting, for our constituents to be allowed entrance into our office buildings to meet with their duly elected member of Congress."

"Then, we are told, she has the Capitol Police doing opposition research that is catalogued for later use. We have never ever seen a Congress so partisan to such an unethical and illegal extent. The people behind this should be hoping and praying that they will not be treated in the same manner in which they are running roughshod over Republicans when and if Republicans retake the majority."

At an [online site,](https://djhjmedia.com/steven/capitol-police-caught-opening-rep-gohmerts-mail-illegal-even-with-a-warrant-which-they-didnt-have/) DJHJMedia.com, a newsletter cited the report just a day earlier that Rep. Troy Nehls said Capitol Police entered his office, took photographs of his work papers, and returned and "harassed" a staffer.

"A spokesperson for the Capitol Police pointed to a statement by Chief Thomas Manger," the report said, and Manger claimed, "(There was) no case investigation was ever initiated or conducted into the representative or his staff."

"That statement is laughable. Assuming he isn’t lying through his corrupt teeth, how does he explain the fact that they were disguised as construction workers and harassed the staffer with pictures they had taken two days before of Nehl’s work product? The investigation into this illegal activity will be run by the same people who exonerated the Capitol policeman that murdered Ashli Babbitt. Feel confident?" the newsletter said.

[WND reported](https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/u-s-capitol-police-investigation-allegedly-spying-congress-staff/) this week that a [report in the Federalist](https://thefederalist.com/2022/02/08/inspector-general-opens-investigation-into-u-s-capitol-police-following-allegations-of-spying-on-members-of-congress-staff/) revealed that Capitol Police may have been "inappropriately surveilling elected members of Congress, their staff, and visitors to their offices."

The publication explained it has learned the inspector general for the USCP has opened a formal investigation into the behavior of "the law enforcement agency tasked with security the Capitol." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/felonious-behavior-congressman-catches-biden-admin-opening-mail/> [This is government out of control that needs to be removed from power permanently and never allowed into a position of authority again. – rdb]

**'Something isn't right': Biden warned his 'mental decline' is worsening**

***Dozens of members of Congress write letter urging Joe to take cognitive test***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 9, 2022 at 11:16am*

That there have been questions for a long time already about Joe Biden's cognitive abilities is without dispute, as [a poll weeks ago from McLaughlin & Associates showed majorities of Americans believed him to be incompetent as president, and they wanted him to take a cognitive health test and release the results.](https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/something-isnt-right-biden-warned-mental-decline-worsening/'https:/www.wnd.com/2021/11/majorities-americans-say-biden-incompetent-needs-take-cognitive-exam/%22)

That poll revealed 52% believe Biden to be incompetent, only another 6% said they didn't know or they declined to answer. Only 43% believed him all right at that point.

Now members of Congress have joined the chorus expressing concern for the 79-year-old, with dozens of GOP members urging him to take a cognitive test because his "mental decline" is becoming "more apparent."

[A report at Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/republicans-urge-biden-cognitive-test-assume-worst) explained nearly 40 Republicans are pushing for the evaluation in a letter organized by Rep. Ronny Jackson, R-Texas, a former physician to the president.

"My colleagues and I are again asking President Biden to immediately undergo a formal cognitive screening exam, such as the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MOCA)," Jackson told Fox News Digital in an email.

He pointed out he has served as a physician to three presidents, so he knows "what it takes mentally and physically to execute the duties of commander-in-chief and head of state."

Biden, he said, "has continually proven to me and to the world that something isn’t right. The American people deserve to have absolute confidence in their president’s cognitive ability."

He explained Biden could take an important first step in reassuring Americans of his fitness with such a test, and confirming whether Alzheimer's, vascular dementia, Parkinson's, or other ailments have become factors.

This is not a partisan issue," Jackson explained. "When I discussed taking a cognitive test with President Trump, he was eager to assure the American people and to put the fake news media’s stories to bed.

"Why won’t President Biden do the same?" MORE - <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/something-isnt-right-biden-warned-mental-decline-worsening/> [Anyone with eyes to see has known that “Bi-Dum" doesn’t have all his oars in the water and hasn’t for a long time. It is pathetic what the demon-rats have done to this impaired person. The problem now is what or who do they replace him with? Harris is an dimitted idiot and Pelosi is having lapses in her mind periodically and is about as evil as a possessed person. – rdb]

**Hunter Biden Tried to Broker Energy Deal With China’s State-Owned Oil Company: Emails**

*By Frank Fang February 9, 2022 Updated: February 9, 2022*

[Hunter Biden](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-hunter-biden), the second son of U.S. President Joe Biden, tried to broker a $120 million oil agreement in 2014 and 2015 between a Chinese state-owned oil company and Kazakhstan’s prime minister at that time, according to emails recently obtained by British newspaper the [Daily Mail](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10465061/Hunter-Biden-tried-broker-oil-deal-Chinese-firm-ex-Kazakh-prime-minister-emails-show.html).

The Chinese oil company alleged to be part of the deal, the State China National Offshore Oil Corp. ([CNOOC](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-cnooc)), isn’t an ordinary firm. In 2021, the U.S. Commerce Department identified the company as [posing a threat](https://2017-2021.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/01/commerce-adds-china-national-offshore-oil-corporation-entity-list-and.html) to U.S. national security and added it to a trade blacklist called the “[Entity List](https://www.theepochtimes.com/t-entity-list).”

The Pentagon named CNOOC as one of Beijing’s “[military companies](https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2434513/dod-releases-list-of-additional-companies-in-accordance-with-section-1237-of-fy/)” in December 2020. That month, the U.S. State Department asked U.S. investors ([pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/20201208-FACT-SHEET-U.S.-Investors-Are-Funding-Malign-PRC-Companies-on-Major-Indices-1.pdf)) to steer away from investing in stock and bond indices having “malign PRC companies” on their portfolios, with CNOOC being one of the many companies named. The People’s Republic of China is the official title of China.

The Daily Mail obtained the emails from what is alleged to be Biden’s [abandoned laptop](https://www.theepochtimes.com/house-republicans-ask-fbi-if-it-had-hunter-bidens-alleged-laptop-during-impeachment_3541234.html), showing him traveling to Beijing and Kazakhstan in an effort to broker the oil deal in the two-year period. At that time, he tried to negotiate the deal on behalf of a Ukrainian energy firm named Burisma for which he was a board member, according to the outlet.

According to the emails, the plan was for the Kazakh government to award drilling rights to CNOOC, while Burisma would operate rigs and wells in the Central Asian country. MORE - <https://www.theepochtimes.com/hunter-biden-tried-to-broker-energy-deal-with-chinas-state-owned-oil-company-emails_4266565.html> [The deep state is so deep into the China economy and finances that there is no redemption for any of them. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Freedom Truckers v. GoFundMe Leftists**[Betsy McCaughey](https://townhall.com/columnists/betsymccaughey/) Posted: Feb 09, 2022 12:01 AM  
 When GoFundMe shut down funding Friday for the truckers' Freedom Convoy, it didn't just clobber Canadian rig drivers; it dealt a blow to the rights of Americans. Silicon Valley executives are trying to limit the causes Americans support, favoring leftists and canceling conservatives.  
 We Americans have a constitutionally protected right to donate money to whatever causes we choose, the Supreme Court ruled in Buckley v. Valeo. Money funds political activity, and limiting where we can donate is like gagging our speech.  
 Canadian truckers launched a convoy to Ottawa last month to protest Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's vaccine mandate on all rig drivers. Never mind the absurdity of requiring a truck driver alone behind the wheel for 18 hours a day to be vaccinated.  
 The convoy set up a fundraising site on GoFundMe to pay for fuel, food and lodging. Many Americans rushed to support it. It had reached $10 million in donations when GoFundMe pulled the plug.  
 Nearly one-quarter of Americans donate on crowdfunding sites, according to Pew Research. GoFundMe is the largest. It's the public square for fundraising, and it should be open to all, regardless of their politics.  
 Yet GoFundMe shuts down fundraising for causes the left doesn't like. That's as dangerous to our democracy as when other Silicon Valley tech giants like Facebook and Twitter silence viewpoints.  
 The Freedom Convoy reached Ottawa Jan. 29 and has clogged the city's streets with 18-wheelers and demonstrators calling for health care freedom and an end to overreaching government COVID mandates.  
 GoFundMe claims it shut down the truckers because of "reports of violence and other unlawful activity" violating the company's terms of service.  
 That's a joke. Even CNN reports "no bloodshed" has occurred. The New York Times concedes the worst is snarled traffic and blaring truck horns.  
 As of Friday evening, when GoFundMe permanently shut the site down, there had been only three arrests despite thousands protesting. As of Sunday, police reported more arrests and investigations, but the number is still minuscule overall. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson's biggest complaint is that the truckers are showing "insensitivity" by creating noise and "turning it into a party."  
 Compare that with the mayhem and violence in Portland, Oregon, in 2020. Truth is, GoFundMe had no problem with that disorder. The site raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Portland General Defense Committee to defend rioters who set fire to police stations, vandalized city hall, wielded weapons and injured police officers.  
 Even now, GoFundMe is raising money for Black Lives Matter NYC to engage in "civil disobedience and disruption." GoFundMe likes BLM's brand of civil disobedience.  
 The framers of the Constitution banned government from censoring, but they didn't anticipate Big Tech. Democrats are happy to deputize Silicon Valley lefties to muzzle the deplorables and prevent an exchange of ideas. And money.  
 Democrats in Congress insist Big Tech should stamp out "misinformation." Trudeau slammed the truckers for spreading "misinformation."  
 Who decides what's misinformation? Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. said the "best test of truth" is whether it survives in "the competition of the market." Silicon Valley is snuffing out competition.  
 There are two remedies. The first is for Congress to regulate Big Tech like public utilities or common carriers, compelling them to serve all customers without viewpoint discrimination. Water companies and railroads can't deny service to customers with unpopular opinions. Big Tech should operate by the same rules.  
 Unfortunately, such legislation is unlikely to pass. About half of Democratic members' stock holdings are in Big Tech, compared with only 14% for Republicans.  
 The second remedy is the Supreme Court. It's possible the majority will limit Big Tech censorship when a case arises.  
 In April 2021, Justice Clarence Thomas warned, in a concurring opinion, that the CEOs of the social media giants -- a mere handful of executives -- have the power to exclude even a president of the United States from the digital public square.  
 Thomas appears poised to rule that the First Amendment bans censorship not only by government but also by social media.  
 GoFundMe's attack on the Freedom Convoy is the latest red flag that Silicon Valley's power over us has to be stopped. <https://townhall.com/columnists/betsymccaughey/2022/02/09/freedom-truckers-v-gofundme-leftists-n2603020>

**Biden Admin and EU Silent on Iran's Rising Persecution of Religious Minorities**

*by* [*Majid Rafizadeh*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Majid+Rafizadeh) *February 9, 2022 at 5:00 am* While turning a blind eye to the Iranian regime's increasing [persecution](https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/2021%20Iran%20Country%20Update.pdf) of religious minorities, the Biden administration and the European Union are focusing only on lifting the sanctions against the Islamic Republic. The move will help to revive the disastrous nuclear deal that will empower the ruling mullahs to race toward nuclear weapons breakout; strengthen Iran's internal militia, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and expand the country's proxy militias abroad: the Houthis in Yemen, and the [designated](https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/) Foreign Terrorist Organizations Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. That does not even include any plans Iran might have to expand its operations, which threaten America, in [Cuba](https://insidearabia.com/iran-venezuela-relations-dangerous-liaisons-and-a-threat-to-the-us/), Venezuela, and Nicaragua.  
 Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has [filled](https://english.mojahedin.org/news/iran-news/raisis-cabinet-a-full-roster-of-criminals-crooks-and-irgc-vets/) his cabinet with members of the IRGC, a domestic militia that the US Department of State has listed as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, and that is key in cracking down on religious minorities in Iran.  
 In 2021, Raisi [signed](https://www.article19.org/resources/iran-parliament-passes-law-to-further-choke-freedoms-and-target-minorities/) two alarming amendments to Articles 499 and 500 of Iran's Penal Code, [making](https://www.article19.org/resources/iran-parliament-passes-law-to-further-choke-freedoms-and-target-minorities/) it easier for the authorities to crack down on religious minorities. The amendments [impose](https://www.article19.org/resources/iran-parliament-passes-law-to-further-choke-freedoms-and-target-minorities/) prison sentences and fines on whoever [insults](https://www.article19.org/resources/iran-parliament-passes-law-to-further-choke-freedoms-and-target-minorities/) "divine religions or Islamic schools of thought recognized under the Constitutions with the intent to cause violence or tensions in the society," as well on whoever [conducts](https://www.article19.org/resources/iran-parliament-passes-law-to-further-choke-freedoms-and-target-minorities/) "any deviant educational or proselytizing activity that contradicts or interferes with the sacred law of Islam."  
 Persecution of Christians in Iran has especially been on the [rise](https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/2021%20Iran%20Country%20Update.pdf). While Iranian leaders [celebrate](https://www.persecution.org/2021/11/12/iran-celebrates-muslim-conversion-condemning-christians/) and publicize those who convert to Islam, those who convert to Christianity are severely [punished](https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/2021%20Iran%20Country%20Update.pdf). As the latest [report](https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/2021%20Iran%20Country%20Update.pdf) by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom points out, in Iran, Christians "faced intense religious persecution in 2021."  
 "As in previous years, Iran has targeted Christian converts from Islam in particular. These include USCIRF religious prisoner of conscience Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, who was charged in 2016 with 'promoting Zionist Christianity.' Pastor Nadarkhani remains in prison on a ten-year sentence. Following her release from prison in February 2020, Christian convert and political activist Mary Mohammadi was re-arrested in January for improperly wearing her headscarf. In February, an appeals court in Bushehr sentenced three Christian converts to jail time for spreading 'propaganda' against Iran through promoting Christianity. At same month, Iran's Ministry of Intelligence summoned Christian convert Ebrahim Firouzi to the prosecutor's office in Sarbaz after he posted videos online detailing his persecution."  
 Another religious minority that faces persecution in Iran is the Baha'i faith. According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:  
 "Conditions for Baha'is in Iran reflect an alarming deterioration in 2021. Throughout 2020 and into 2021, Iran escalated the publication and broadcast of anti-Baha'i propaganda through state media channels compared to previous years. In February 2021, Branch Two of the Hormozgan Court of Appeals upheld prison sentences against eight Baha'is on the grounds that their Baha'i identity makes them a prima facie threat to national security. Additionally, the court is forcing them to attend 'counseling sessions' run by a Shi'a religious institute regarding their religious beliefs. this treatment marks a new and concerning shift by Iran's government toward an explicit policy that Baha'is do not have rights in Iran on national security grounds, despite the baseless nature of the charges and the non-derogable [derogable in human rights law means whether a right may be suspended in certain circumstances] nature of religious freedom under international law."  
 Other minorities persecuted in Iran, according to the report, include Zoroastrians, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims and Yarsanis.  
 Meanwhile, the European powers are not only failing to hold the Iranian regime accountable, they are busy [appeasing](https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110442/irans-trade-with-eu-tops-25-billion) the ruling mullahs of Iran and doing business with them. From January to July 2021, the EU's trade with Iran [brought](https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110442/irans-trade-with-eu-tops-25-billion) the regime roughly $3 billion. "Germany remained the top trading partner of Iran during the seven months under review, as the two countries exchanged €1.01 billion worth of goods," The Financial Tribune [reports](https://financialtribune.com/articles/domestic-economy/110442/irans-trade-with-eu-tops-25-billion).  
 "Italy came next with €347.96 million worth of trade with Iran.... The Netherlands with €264.48 million (down 9.23%), Spain with €178.33 million (up 9.25%) and Belgium with €140.14 million (up 6.79%) were Iran's other major European trading partners. Estonia registered the highest growth of 709.52% in trade with Iran during the seven months under review. Malta with 471.77%, Romania with 284.86% and Croatia with 169.12% came next."  
 The Biden administration is also busy [lifting](https://www.wsj.com/articles/biden-administration-lifts-sanctions-on-more-than-dozen-former-iranian-officials-energy-firms-11623347091) sanctions on the Iranian regime, on several former Iranian officials and on several companies. In February 2021, the administration [revoked](https://www.state.gov/revocation-of-the-terrorist-designations-of-ansarallah/) the designation of Iran-backed Houthis as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Then, in a blow to the religious minorities and advocates of human rights, the Biden administration [announced](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/biden-admin-weighs-lifting-sanctions-iran-s-supreme-leader-ayatollah-n1272232) that it is considering lifting sanctions against Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.  
 Since the Biden administration lifted the "maximum pressure" imposed by the previous administration, the ruling mullahs have only escalated their persecution of religious minorities. Instead of incessantly lecturing the world on human rights, the EU and the Biden administration would sound more credible if they would stop appeasing the human rights catastrophe that Iran's regime has become, and hold the ruling mullahs accountable.  
 *Dr. Majid Rafizadeh is a business strategist and advisor, Harvard-educated scholar, political scientist, board member of Harvard International Review, and president of the International American Council on the Middle East. He has* [*authored*](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_1_9?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=majid+rafizadeh&sprefix=majid+raf%2Caps%2C757&crid=22WY06JIYF98T) *several books on Islam and US foreign policy. He can be reached at* [*Dr.Rafizadeh@Post.Harvard.Edu*](mailto:Dr.Rafizadeh@Post.Harvard.Edu)  
<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18187/iran-persecution-religious-minorities>

**No Free Trade with an Unfree China** [*Terry Jeffrey*](https://townhall.com/columnists/terryjeffrey/) *Posted: Feb 09, 2022 12:01 AM* California, Florida and Michigan may be geographically distant from one another and have somewhat different cultures, but when they engage in trade with one another, it is free.  
 The business owners and workers in these states all work under the same federal laws. The Constitution gives the federal Congress, not state governments, the power to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States."  
 If a worker or entrepreneur does not like the laws of the state they now inhabit, they are free to move to another part of the United States -- or they can vote their state politicians out of office.  
 The United States is both a free country and a free-trade zone.  
 The Constitution, as originally ratified, gave the federal government the power to impose tariffs on foreign goods coming into the United States but effectively barred the imposition of a direct federal tax on the incomes of individual Americans.  
 When the first Congress met in 1789, one of the first laws it passed -- on July 4 -- was expressly designed for "the encouragement and protection of manufactures." It was the Tariff Act.  
 "Whereas, it is necessary," said this law, "for the support of government, for the discharge of debts of the United States, and the encouragement and protection of manufactures that duties be laid on goods, wares and merchandise imported: Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of August next ensuing, the several duties hereinafter mentioned shall be laid on the following goods, wares and merchandise imported into the United States from any foreign port or place."  
 The act then went on to list specific items and what the tariff on them would be. "On soap, per pound, two cents," it said. "On boots, per pair, fifty cents."  
 Members of Congress today should look back to the vision of the Founders when they approach U.S. policy toward the People's Republic of China.  
 Manufacturing employment in the United States hit its all-time peak in June 1979, when, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it climbed to 19,553,000.  
 Local, state and federal government in the United States that same month employed only a combined 16,045,000.  
 So, the manufacturing sector in the United States employed 3,508,000 more than government as we started the summer season 43 years ago.  
 In January, according to BLS, there were 22,144,000 people employed in government in the United States and only 12,559,000 in manufacturing. Government employees now outnumber manufacturing employees by 9,585,000, or 76.3%.  
 What would the Founders have thought of that?  
 One of the reasons for the decline in manufacturing jobs in the United States can be seen in the 2021 international merchandise trade data released this week by the Census Bureau.  
 The People's Republic of China was by far the leading contributor to our merchandise trade deficit for the year. The United States imported $506.3 billion in goods from China in 2021, but China bought only $151 billion in goods from the United States. That resulted in a bilateral trade deficit of $355.3 billion.  
 Our next highest trade deficit was with Mexico, but it was less than one-third the deficit with China. The United States imported $384.7 billion in goods from Mexico and exported $276.4 billion in goods to Mexico, resulting in a trade deficit of $108.2 billion.  
 What did America buy from China?  
 According to the date released by the Census Bureau, the top product the United States imported from China was $75.18 billion worth of "cell phones and other household goods." Ranking second was "computers" at $59.2 billion. The top two products the United States sold to China were soybeans ($14.1 billion) and semiconductors ($13.4 billion).  
 The workers in China who make the products that China exports to the United States are not free people. Their government denies them their God-given rights.  
 In its latest report on human rights in China, the State Department said that China is "an authoritarian state," where the "Chinese Communist Party is the paramount authority." "Significant human rights issues," it said, "included: ... forced labor and trafficking in persons; severe restrictions on labor rights, including a ban on workers organizing or joining unions of their own choosing; and child labor."  
 Perhaps Congress should move to protect the jobs -- and cut the taxes -- of American workers by imposing on Chinese imports the sort of tariffs that the Founders had in mind when they convened the first Congress. <https://townhall.com/columnists/terryjeffrey/2022/02/09/no-free-trade-with-an-unfree-china-n2603034>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**White House: Talks with Iran have reached an urgent point**

***White House press secretary says a deal with Iran on its nuclear activities needs to be reached in the coming weeks.***

*Elad Benari 10.02.22 02:00*

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Wednesday that talks with Iran have reached an urgent point.

Speaking to reporters and quoted by *Reuters*, Psaki warned that it will be impossible to return to the Iran nuclear deal if an agreement is not reached in coming weeks.

“A deal that addresses the core concerns of all sides is in sight but if it’s not reached in the coming weeks, Iran’s ongoing nuclear advances will make it impossible for us to return to the JCPOA,” she stated.

The comments come a day after the talks to revive a deal with Iran on its nuclear program [resumed in Vienna](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321979).

The negotiations -- attended by Britain, China, France, Germany, Iran, Russia and indirectly the United States -- were halted at the end of last month for diplomats to return to their capitals to get further instructions.

Tuesday’s resumption came after parties in recent weeks cited progress in seeking to revive the 2015 deal. MORE - <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/322038> It is unfortunate that these poor mindless folks haven’t figure out yet that it is way past too late to get to any agreement with Iran and even if they do it won’t be kept anyway. – rdb]

**PLO suspends recognition of Israel**

***PLO Central Council suspends recognition of Israel until Israel recognizes "the state of Palestine".***

*Dalit Halevi 10.02.22 00:06*

The PLO Central Council decided on Wednesday to suspend recognition of the State of Israel until Israel recognizes the “state of Palestine” on the June 6, 1967 border with its capital in eastern Jerusalem.

At the conclusion of a meeting in Ramallah, the PLO Central Council issued a statement saying that the “state of Palestine” alone has sovereignty over Palestinian land and that "the presence of the occupation, its army and settlers on Palestinian land is an illegal presence that must be stopped immediately."

The Central Council called for the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people until it could exercise its full sovereignty, and also authorized the PLO Executive Committee to reshape the institutions of the Palestinian Authority in a manner consistent with the “state of Palestine” exercising sovereignty over its land.

The statement also emphasized the importance of moving from the Palestinian Authority to a sovereign state alongside opposition to the economic peace plan, the conflict management plan and confidence-building measures offered by Israel as an alternative to sustainable and just peace based on the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The PLO called on the US administration to implement President Joe Biden's statements regarding the administration's commitment to a two-state settlement, its opposition to the policy of forced expulsion of Palestinians from neighborhoods in Jerusalem, its support for preserving the Al-Aqsa Mosque, cessation of Israeli harm to places that are sacred to Christianity and to Islam and other “unilateral actions”.

The PLO also asked the US administration to reopen the US consulate in Jerusalem and the PLO office in Washington. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/322036>

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| A close-up of a pretzel with sprinkles  Description automatically generated with low confidenceA close-up of a stethoscope  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**LEV U’NESHAMA (HEART AND SOUL) – TZFAT, ISRAEL**  **ANNUAL TWO FOR ONE PURIM MITZVAH**  **Purim: Thursday, March 17, 2022**  ***MITZVAH NUMBER ONE:*** Send Purim Gift Boxes to family and friends in the US. The attractive gift boxes contain an assortment of strictly kosher holiday treats.  ***MITZVAH NUMBER TWO:***Profit from your order will help provide Passover food to needy families in Tzfat Israel. One gift box is $26 (100 NIS) including postage and handling. (Expensive postage rates and delivery problems prevent our accepting Canadian orders.)  ***IT’S SIMPLE TO ORDER! (DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, March 2)***  **Shoppers: First** email your recipient list with names, addresses and brief personal messages to: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  **Payment** for your order with PayPal: use the recipient email address: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  (Tzfat shoppers may leave their cash payments at the Torah Gems Bookstore.)  Or . . . simply go to our website: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com/) and use either PayPal or your credit card  (Israeli or US) on the "How You Can Help" page. If you use Zelle, a US to US bank transfer , you may do so by using the email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  **US shoppers:** Send checks made payable to Simcha Smolensky.  **Send to:** Simcha Smolensky, 6933 N Kedzie Ave, Unit 116, Chicago IL 60645  **Contact me if you have questions:** [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  ***MITZVAH OPTION:****If you don’t want to order Gift Boxes, y*our donation in any amount will be appreciated. Send your check made payable to Simcha in Chicago or use PayPal or go to our web site, as shown above and select PayPal or use your credit card (Israeli or US). Designate on PayPal that the donation is only for the Purim program.  ***You can help make Passover more joyful for a needy Tzfat family.***  ***Yaffa Smolensky, Volunteer Program Manager***  ***Email:***[***mortsmo@aol.com***](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)***web site:***[***www.levuneshama.com***](http://www.levuneshama.com/) |

**02/09/2022 NEWS - Purimis coming - March 17 see** [**below**](#purim)**!**

**A seal bearing a name that appears in the Bible was discovered in the City of David**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeDFUr-TlpY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeDFUr-TlpY)

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| **"We do not move forward by curtailing people’s liberty because we are afraid of what they may do or say." -- Eleanor Roosevelt [Anna Eleanor Roosevelt] (1884-1963) Wife of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TS bat Y - Returned home but still ill**  **Pray for BB – Severe sciatic needing procedure.**  **Pray for TH - Knee and Blood pressure problems.**  **Pray for EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 7:8And the LORD spoke unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying: 9'When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying: Show a wonder for you; then thou shalt say unto Aaron: Take thy rod, and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it become a serpent.' 10And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so, as the LORD had commanded; and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

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| |  | | --- | | **Attorney Reiner Fuellmich's Opening Statements**  **@ Grand Jury, Court Of Public Opinion**  **This is only 18 minutes and you need to watch this to understand the issues**  [**https://rumble.com/vu5ro7-attorney-reiner-fuellmichs-opening-statements-grand-jury-court-of-public-op.html**](https://rumble.com/vu5ro7-attorney-reiner-fuellmichs-opening-statements-grand-jury-court-of-public-op.html)  **For more information and follow up posting of the proceedings:**  [**https://www.grand-jury.net/**](https://www.grand-jury.net/) | |

**IDF: Errant Syrian anti-aircraft missile explodes over Israel, no interception made**

***Launch triggers sirens in Umm al-Fahm, West Bank; incident came after Syria said air defenses engaged ‘hostile targets;’ IDF hits Syrian anti-aircraft batteries in response***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:18 am*

An anti-aircraft missile fired from Syria exploded in the air over northern Israel after midnight Tuesday, setting off warning sirens in the town of Umm al-Fahm and communities in the northern West Bank, the army said.

Residents reported hearing a loud explosion in the area. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

“A launch was identified from Syrian territory towards Israel. The missile exploded in the air and as such there was no need to carry out an interception,” the Israel Defense Forces said.

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/2-68-660x330-1.jpg)

A Syrian anti-aircraft missile is fired near Damascus during an alleged Israeli airstrike on February 9, 2022. An errant anti-aircraft missile exploded over northern Israel (SANA)

Shrapnel landed near the Homesh settlement outpost, causing a small fire, according to Rescuers Without Borders, a Jewish emergency service operating in the West Bank

The warning sirens came minutes after Syrian state media SANA said air defenses had engaged “hostile targets” near Damascus.

The IDF said that in response to the missile entering Israeli airspace, Israel had hit several Syrian anti-aircraft sites inside Syria, including “Syrian radar and anti-aircraft batteries that launched missiles at IAF aircraft.”

“The IDF will continue to protect Israel’s airspace and security,” the statement said.

A later SANA report, citing military sources, said one soldier was killed and five wounded in the strikes. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/rocket-warning-sirens-sound-near-umm-al-fahm-northern-west-bank/>

**Bennett vows ‘no safe harbor for terrorists’ following West Bank raid**

***Thousands turn out for Nablus funeral of three suspected terrorists, vowing to avenge their deaths; Joint List MK calls operation an ‘extrajudicial execution’***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/000_9YT636-e1644331755359.jpg)*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:34 pm*

Palestinians inspect a bullet-riddled car belonging to three Palestinian terror suspects killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank city of Nablus, February 8, 2022. (Jaafar Ashtiyeh/AFP)

Israeli leaders on Tuesday hailed security forces after a rare daytime operation in the West Bank during which three Palestinian terror suspects were killed.

“Our forces proved today, again, that there is no immunity for terrorists,” Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement. “Whoever hurts us will be hurt.”

The three gunman were allegedly behind recent shooting attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians. They were apparently members of Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades, a coalition of armed groups associated with the Palestinian Authority’s ruling Fatah party.

According to police, the suspects were shot dead while readying to shoot at officers from the Yamam police counterterrorism unit who ambushed them in Nablus. Police said officers recovered two M-16 rifles.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz also praised the operation, which he called “a preventive action.”

“I recently ordered that preventive actions against shooting attacks and troop presence in central arteries and areas of the [West Bank] be stepped up,” he wrote on Twitter. “We’ll continue with proactive operations, prevent [attacks] and capture anyone who tries to hurt people.”

M16 rifles seized during a Nablus terror operation on February 8, 2022. (Police spokesperson)

Border Police chief Amir Cohen spoke with the head of the Yamam, lauding the troops who took part in the raid.

“You again proved that Israeli citizens have someone to rely on. You acted courageously and caused the thwarting of a dangerous terror cell that intended to continue carrying out terror activities,” Cohen was quoted as saying in a police statement.

The gunmen were identified as Ashraf al-Mubsalit, Adham Mabrouk and Muhammad al-Dakhil by Palestinian media, which said they were affiliated with the Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades. A Fatah spokesperson confirmed that the three were Fatah members.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades, a loose coalition of armed groups affiliated with Fatah, has been largely dormant since the Second Intifada two decades ago. In a 2007 agreement, hundreds of the terror group’s members surrendered their arms in exchange for amnesty from Israel.

Thousands of Palestinians participated in the funeral of the three men in Nablus on Tuesday afternoon.

“With blood and spirit, we’ll redeem you, o martyr!” the mourners chanted. Yellow flags affiliated with the West Bank’s ruling Fatah party dotted the procession alongside green banners associated with the Hamas terror group.

“Brigades! Qassam! Revenge! Revenge!” Palestinians could be heard chanting in another clip circulated on social media, referring to the armed wings of Islamic Jihad and Hamas, respectively.

The Palestinian Authority Foreign Ministry condemned the shooting death of the Palestinian terror suspects at the hands of Israeli forces “in the most severe terms,” saying they were “executed.”

“This crime is the latest in a chain of extrajudicial executions committed by the forces of the occupation,” the Foreign Ministry said. [Catch them in the act of trying to shot someone and this is an extrajudicial execution? This is essentially self-defense. The “PA” dweebs are masters of twisting facts and words. – rdb]

The Palestinian Authority cabinet called for an international investigation.

“The cabinet calls upon the United Nations and international human rights groups to condemn this heinous crime and work to bring the perpetrators to justice,” the ministers said in a statement.

Separately, Nablus Governor Ibrahim Ramadaed called for a general strike Wednesday across the governorate to mourn the three Palestinians.

Joint List MK Sami Abu Shehada also spoke out against the killing of the terror suspects, calling it an “extrajudicial execution against three Palestinian youths.”

“ This is a serious crime that adds to the daily crimes of the Israeli occupation,” he said.

He also lashed out at Israeli society for supporting the “occupation’s crimes,” and the press for “accepting the army’s narrative and constantly echoing it through all media.”

A picture containing person, crowd

Description automatically generated

Palestinians carry the body of a man, one of three killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank city of Nablus, on February 8, 2022. (JAAFAR ASHTIYEH / AFP)

Following the raid, reports said Israeli troops were searching for an additional member of the suspected terror cell. It was not clear if the fourth person fled or was not present when soldiers killed the other three suspects.

According to an unsourced report in the Walla news site, officials decided to order the operation after the Palestinians were seen getting in a car with guns and ammunition.

The report said undercover anti-terror police riding in a taxi and a car in Nablus surrounded the suspects’ car and opened fire on it. Other troops, some of whom were undercover, were also deployed to the area in case of problems.

The Ynet news site reported that Israel received intelligence that the group had been planning an attack Tuesday night. The media outlet, which did not cite a source, also said that before being killed, the cell “acted like wanted suspects, moving between safehouses.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-vows-no-safe-harbor-for-terrorists-following-west-bank-raid/>

**Soldiers kill 3 Palestinian terror suspects in West Bank operation**

***Security forces say men were members of cell that carried out shooting attacks against Israelis in recent weeks; gunmen belonged to Fatah’s Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 2:47 pm*

Israeli security forces operating in the West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday killed three Palestinian gunmen allegedly responsible for recent shooting attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians, Israeli defense officials announced.

“A terrorist cell from the Nablus area was eliminated. The cell is responsible for a series of shooting attacks in the area against the Israel Defense Forces and Israeli civilians in recent weeks,” the Shin Bet security service, the military and the Border Police said in a joint statement.

Israeli troops rarely conduct such operations in broad daylight inside major Palestinian cities. Even more unusually, the dead gunmen belonged to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a coalition of armed groups associated with the Palestinian Authority’s ruling Fatah party.

In a statement widely circulated in Palestinian media, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades vowed revenge for its members’ deaths. The Times of Israel could not independently confirm the statement’s authenticity. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/soldiers-kill-3-palestinian-terror-suspects-in-west-bank-operation/>

**IDF drills for a winter war with Hezbollah**

***“We are preparing for war with Hezbollah in all weather conditions," said Lt.-Col. Ofer Tchorz, commander of the 74th battalion, part of the 188th Armored Brigade.***

*By* [*ANNA AHRONHEIM*](https://www.jpost.com/author/anna-ahronheim) *Published: FEBRUARY 8, 2022 11:47 Updated: FEBRUARY 8, 2022 15:48*

In the middle of two harsh winter storms, the IDF’s 74th Armored Battalion conducted a large-scale drill and significantly improved its ability to go to [war against Hezbollah](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/idf-drills-for-war-against-hezbollah-as-tensions-with-iran-rise-683707).

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| Merkava tank during a 2022 winter training drill. (photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)  Merkava tank during a 2022 winter training drill.(photo credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT) | IDF tanks during a 2022 winter drill. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)IDF tanks during a 2022 winter drill. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT) |

The five-day exercise saw troops simulate combat against the Iran-backed terror group after a three-month training period in the Golan. The drill saw them practice combat methods in rocky terrain and in urban centers where soldiers will have to battle the group.

“The drill was long and complicated, with a number of technical operations that we worked on,” said Lt.-Col. Ofer Tchorz, commander of the 74th battalion, a part of the 188th Armored Brigade.

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| IDF soldiers practice evacuating injured soldiers during a 2022 winter military drill. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)IDF soldiers practice evacuating injured soldiers during a 2022 winter military drill. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT) | IDF soldiers practice evacuating injured soldiers during a 2022 winter military drill. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)IDF soldiers practice evacuating injured soldiers during a 2022 winter military drill. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT) |

The challenges posed by the [Israeli winter](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-694324) such as cold temperatures and rain, as well as challenges posed by the communication between maneuvering units are a central part of the drill that troops are training on.

**Preparing for winter war**

Company Commander Cpt. Ofek Naaman from the 605th Combat Engineering Battalion told The Jerusalem Post that he and his troops trained during the two winter storms that hit Israel last month.  
 “It’s definitely a lot more challenging than the summer,” he said. “But I trained my troops during the last two storms that we had, so no doubt it was challenging but it’s not something my fighters did not experience. They handled it properly.”  
 What was more challenging, he said, was walking on the hilly terrain of the North.  
 “The area is full of hills and the ground was muddy,” he said. “The equipment is heavy and needed to be carried for a long period of time.”  
***Eyes on Hezbollah and the cold North***

The IDF has been training in Israel’s Golan Heights for another war with Hezbollah, which over the years since the Second Lebanon War has morphed into an army with more advanced weaponry, is more mobile, able to draft large numbers of fighters and deploy them quickly in enemy territory.

Hezbollah has been described by senior military officers as the strongest army in the Middle East after the IDF.

Israel and Hezbollah fought a deadly 33-day war in 2006, which came to an end under UN Security Council Resolution 1701 that called for the disarmament of Hezbollah, withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon, the deployment of the Lebanese army and an enlarged UN force in the South.

***Combined arms of the IDF***

“Compared to 2006, we fight in a joint formation, with artillery, infantry, engineering, air… everyone together,” Tchorz said. “When we close the gaps of the other, we become more effective and that’s a big difference. And the minute that we use the new technology, we are more precise, effective and lethal.”

“On the right there were infantry forces, on the left tanks and above me, there was the air force,” Naaman said. “They all work together; it’s challenging but very powerful.”

During the drill, the Tchorz’s tanks were joined by infantry units, combat engineers and artillery units, as well as the Israeli Air Force during parts of the exercise.

“Today, tanks are equipped with advanced technology that allows us to be in contact and move information to troops,” Tchorz said. “We are more effective, we can close the circle much better, quicker, and in a more precise manner than in the past.”

***The challenges of war with Hezbollah***

The IDF expects that in any future conflict, whether it be against Hezbollah in the North or Hamas in the South, soldiers will have to fight their heavily armed enemies entrenched in the middle of built-up civilian areas.

Troops will need to conquer enemy territory and destroy its weapons stores – especially rocket launchers, in order to minimize the number of missiles and rockets the enemy can fire at the home front.

According to Tchorz, the main challenges facing troops who will need to enter Lebanon are the hilly terrain and an enemy who fights from within residential areas and tries to hit IDF forces from there.

“We are training to deal with that,” he explained. “We are training to hit the enemy in a precise manner. We have the ability to hit the enemy very precisely, including when he is surrounded by innocent civilians.”

Though the defense establishment does not see a war breaking out with Iran or its proxies such as Hezbollah in Syria, Israel’s military has increased the amount of training for troops and reserve forces.

“At the peak of the drill, we were at a great level of readiness against the troops who acted as Hezbollah,” he said, referring to members of the all-female Red Unit that was formed in April 2020 who act as enemy forces during drills in order to better prepare troops to defend against offensive attacks.

Troops from the unit have four months of specialized training, including intensive studies on the enemies that surround Israel, specifically the threat posed by Hezbollah. The soldiers also have intelligence briefings and reviews where they are updated on what is happening on various fronts in order to constantly update their combat methods.

For Naaman, Hezbollah’s strength is not something to laugh at – and it’s for exactly that reason that forces are training for war against the group.

“I understand the enemy and study him; I expect that what I am training for will happen,” he said. “I understand that the enemy is strong and has abilities, that’s why we prepare as hard as we can to win.”

***More training for the IDF this year***

The IDF has held large-scale drills in the North of the country and plans to hold 50% more drills in the upcoming year than it did in 2020 and 30% more than last year.

The number of exercises set to happen come after years of stagnation and will be the largest training regimen in five years – especially for reserve forces.

The drills will prepare troops and commanders for future wars, using new equipment and tactics that will allow them to work better with the different branches of the military as part of the IDF’s multi-dimensional battlefield scenarios.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-695846> [This is the IDF budget – drills after drills after drills BECAUSE the know that it is coming and probably sooner rather than later. This is not easy to live with and one reason that every leader has to be aware of every aspect of their country and their military and that of those around them. – rdb]

**Republican senators warn Biden they could block new Iran nuclear deal**

***Letter signed by Ted Cruz and 32 colleagues demands president comply with legislation giving Congress oversight on nuclear pacts with Tehran, complicating talks to reenter deal***

*By* [*Lazar Berman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lazar-berman/) *Today, 1:06 am*

As talks to revive the tattered 2015 nuclear deal restarted in Vienna Tuesday, US President Joe Biden was reminded of another obstacle, this time at home, to a smooth return to the agreement.

Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) sent a [letter](https://www.cruz.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sen-cruz-leads-letter-with-32-colleagues-to-president-biden-commits-to-blocking-implementation-of-any-iran-deal-not-submitted-to-congress-for-approval) dated February 7 to Biden emphasizing that the bipartisan [Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1191) requires the administration to submit within five days any new nuclear agreement to Congressional oversight.

“We are committed to using the full range of options and leverage available to United States Senators to ensure that you meet those obligations, and that the implementation of any agreement will be severely if not terminally hampered if you do not,” read the letter, co-signed by 32 of Cruz’s Republican Senate colleagues.

“The submission of such materials then triggers a statutorily-defined review process, and includes the possibility of Congress blocking implementation of the agreement.” the senators wrote.

The letter also warned that any agreement that is not a Senate-ratified treaty could be reversed by a new president in January 2025.

A treaty, which is far more difficult to pass or rescind than an executive order, is required by the US Constitution to be approved by two-thirds of the Senate, an unlikely scenario in a chamber with 50 GOP senators. The Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), notably, is [not a treaty](http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/assets/attachments/documents/11.24.2015.state.dept.letter.jcpoa.pdf), which enabled former president Donald Trump to unilaterally withdraw from the deal in 2018 without consulting Congress. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/republican-senators-warn-biden-they-could-block-new-iran-nuclear-deal/>

**Bennett to huddle with ministers to weigh state commission on police NSO scandal**

***PM, Sa’ar, Barlev and new AG expected to consider a number of options, including waiting to take further steps until deputy AG’s panel presents findings***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:22 pm*

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett will hold a meeting with senior government officials on Tuesday evening to discuss the ongoing NSO scandal and weigh launching a state commission of inquiry to determine the scope of the police’s allegedly illicit use of the Pegasus spyware against Israeli civilians, according to Hebrew media reports.

The meeting at the IDF’s Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv will be attended by Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar, Public Security Minister Omer Barlev and new Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, among others, the Haaretz daily said, adding that the senior officials will also consider a less forceful government examination of the allegations. The ministers may also choose to wait until an already created investigatory committee headed by Deputy Attorney General Amit Marari releases its initial findings. A state commission of inquiry would require the approval of the full cabinet.

A number of ministers have already voiced their support for a more forceful state commission of inquiry, which could subpoena those involved to testify. Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman penned a letter to Bennett on Tuesday demanding such a probe be opened. He joins Sa’ar, Barlev and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid in calling for a state commission, though the latter argued that the panel should start by investigating members of the previous government led by Likud chair Benjamin Netanyahu, as it was in power when the alleged illicit use of NSO’s phone-tapping technology began.

Opposition members, including MKs in Likud, have also called for a state commission, pointing to the reported police targeting of Netanyahu’s family and inner circle as well as witnesses in his criminal trial, which they say should be scrapped as a result.

Bennett thus far has said that the allegations are serious and that those responsible should be held to account if it is proven that the police deployed the spyware illegally. However, Bennett also argued that Pegasus plays an important role in Israel’s war on terror, and that it need not be tossed altogether as a result of the scandal.

At a celebratory toast marking her entrance into her new post on Tuesday, Baharav-Miara said that the allegations against the police would be among the first matters she’d look into, although she didn’t go into further detail.

Earlier in the day, Israel Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai said he would return early from his work trip in the United Arab Emirates to deal with the developments up close amid burgeoning public criticism.

Shabtai continued to deny allegations that officers used spyware illegally against Israeli public and private figures, and said an internal investigation of the allegations so far has found “no evidence of breaking the law.”

In a bombshell report into the use of spyware by the Israel Police published by the Calcalist newspaper Monday, it was claimed that NSO Group’s Pegasus spyware was deployed against senior government officials, mayors, activist leaders, journalists, and former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s family members and advisers.

MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-to-huddle-with-ministers-to-weigh-state-commission-on-police-nso-scandal/>

**Bill limiting PMs to 8 years in office cleared for final votes**

***Proposal to return to plenum for 2nd and 3rd readings after winning backing of Knesset committee; Sa’ar: ‘Limiting terms instead of unlimited terms’***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/F220208YS35-e1644334475240.jpg)*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:15 pm*

Justice Minister Gideon Sa'ar attends a ceremony for the new attorney general, on February 8, 2022, in Jerusalem. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

A Knesset panel on Tuesday advanced a bill that would limit prime ministers to eight years in office for final approval.

After winning the backing of the Knesset’s Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, the bill will return to the Knesset for its second and third readings to be passed into law.

The proposal, which is being pushed by Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar, was inspired by opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who was in power for more than a decade before being replaced in June by Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

“Limiting terms instead of unlimited terms,” Sa’ar tweeted after Tuesday’s committee vote.

The proposed amendment would force a prime minister to step down after eight consecutive years in power, requiring the formation of a new government, though not necessarily new elections.

The bill also bars a person from being premier even if they have served two non-consecutive terms as prime minister, if no more than three years separate the tenures. If the gap between the tenures is more than three years, the eight-year counter is reset, according to the bill.

Netanyahu’s Likud party has denounced the proposal as an effort to prevent him regaining the premiership. However, if approved, the eight-year term limit would not apply retroactively, and thus not block now-opposition leader Netanyahu from returning to power.

Cumulatively, Netanyahu has served as prime minister for 15 years, 12 of them consecutively since 2009. He is currently on trial in three corruption cases, though he denies any wrongdoing.

Sa’ar insists that the bill was not aimed personally at Netanyahu, though he is also working on legislation that would rule out as a potential premier anyone indicted for a crime that comes with a minimum three-year sentence and moral turpitude.

Such a law would apply to Netanyahu and would keep him out of the prime minister’s seat.

A separate bill limiting the terms of mayors would also be advanced later, Sa’ar has said. It too would limit them to two terms, but allow a third term if they receive more than 50 percent of the vote. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bill-limiting-pms-to-8-years-in-office-cleared-for-final-votes/> [Term limits are always a very good idea, particularly in a political system where you are only voting for a party and not the individual. If it was for the individual you could theoretically vote them out. BUT as we seen in the US there are many who serve interminable terms because of crooked politics. – rdb]

**Vowing to prioritize public trust, Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara takes office**

***Acknowledges ‘worrying decline in confidence in public legal advice and law enforcement systems,’ promises to look into allegations of spyware abuse by police***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 12:15 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/F220208YS67.jpg)

Newly appointed Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara seen during a welcome ceremony for her in Jerusalem on February 8, 2022. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

Newly appointed Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara officially took up her post on Tuesday, following unanimous cabinet confirmation of her appointment.

The 62-year-old former Tel Aviv district attorney for civil affairs is the first woman to take up the top justice role.

Outgoing attorney general Avichai Mandelblit stepped down upon completion of his six-year term on January 31, and State Attorney Amit Aisman had been filling in.

Baharav-Miara enters office amid spiking confusion and outrage [over alleged illicit police use of spyware](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministry-heads-netanyahu-associates-activists-said-targeted-by-police-with-spyware/) against both suspects and non-suspects, including persons of interest in the trial of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and a [decline in public trust](https://www.timesofisrael.com/public-trust-in-police-attorney-general-sinks-to-lowest-ever-in-poll/) in the justice system MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-wiretap-scandal-gali-baharav-miara-officially-enters-attorney-generals-office/>

**Court accepts prosecution request for delay in Netanyahu trial amid wiretap claims**

***Deferment granted until Sunday to allow completion of examination of allegations that police illicitly spied on witnesses, defendants***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 2:55 pm*

The Jerusalem District Court on Tuesday accepted the prosecution’s request to cancel a hearing scheduled for Wednesday in former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s corruption trial, in order to provide more time for state attorneys to probe whether police illicitly tapped the phones of key witnesses.

It was the second hearing that the court agreed to cancel this week, after canceling Tuesday’s, as fallout from the police spyware scandal continues to snowball.

The prosecution told the court on Tuesday that its investigation into the alleged hacking of the phone of Shlomo Filber, a former Communications Ministry director general and a key state witness in the most serious case against Netanyahu, was still ongoing.  
 The court acceded to the prosecution’s request, giving it until Sunday at 2 p.m. to present its findings on Filber and any other instances of alleged spyware abuse. According to Haaretz, initial findings have not indicated that police violated a court-approved warrant in their tapping of Filber’s phone.  
 The prosecution is seeking to show that law enforcement did not breach any laws in its treatment of Filber, and hopes to stymie a petition filed by Netanyahu’s attorneys on Monday calling for a pause in the trial.  
 The defense petition is based on [an explosive report](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministry-heads-netanyahu-associates-activists-said-targeted-by-police-with-spyware/) that alleged that the Israel Police used the NSO Group’s Pegasus spyware to hack into the phones of a wide range of public figures — including associates and family members of Netanyahu as well as multiple people currently involved in the trial — without judicial oversight or approval.  
 According to the report, which was unsourced, police hacked the phones of former Walla CEO Ilan Yeshua; former Communications Ministry directors general Filber and Avi Berger; Iris Elovitch, the wife of Shaul Elovitch, the former controlling shareholder of Bezeq, both of whom are defendants in the Netanyahu trial; former Bezeq CEOs Dudu Mizrachi and Stella Hendler; former Walla editor-in-chief Aviram Elad and other journalists at Walla, and others.  
 The abuse of the spyware [reportedly](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministry-heads-netanyahu-associates-activists-said-targeted-by-police-with-spyware/) extended far beyond people involved in the Netanyahu investigation and trial, with those illicitly targeted also said to include activists and demonstrators (including anti-Netanyahu protesters), mayors, ministry directors general, journalists and others. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/prosecution-in-netanyahu-trial-requests-more-time-to-respond-to-wiretap-claims/> It will be most interesting to see if the Bibi case will ever get finished with this going on. – rdb]

**A new BDS battlefront emerges in investing world, with spotlight on Morningstar**

***Multibillion-dollar Chicago-based investment research firm accused of steering investors away from Israel, and is now being investigated by Illinois Investment Policy Board***

*By* [*Asaf Shalev*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/asaf-shalev/) *Today, 4:28 am*

(JTA) – After brushing aside allegations of anti-Israel bias for nearly a year, a multibillion-dollar investment research firm has done an about-face, hiring an outside law firm to investigate the company’s practices.

The change of tack at Chicago-based Morningstar came in early December, about two weeks before the Illinois Investment Policy Board was set to place the company on its blacklist, which would have barred state-run pension systems from investing in Morningstar.

According to complaints first raised by Jlens, which advocates for Israel in the investing world, Morningstar’s subsidiary Sustainalytics steers investors away from Israel by improperly inflating the country’s risk and controversy ratings — which, for Jlens and its allies, amounts to an antisemitic boycott of Israel.

“By its purchase of Sustainalytics in 2020, Morningstar has joined the anti-Israel and antisemitic boycott, divest, sanction movement, and is profiting from and promoting products and services that discriminate against and promote divestiture from Israel,” Jlens CEO Julie Hammerman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by email.

The dispute between Morningstar and pro-Israel activists is the latest front in the battle against the Israel boycott. Investors who want to put their money into socially responsible companies look to companies like Morningstar to screen for environmental, social and governance behavior, or ESG.

Because Israel is the frequent target of United Nations condemnation and has been criticized by several human rights groups, most recently Amnesty International, Israel supporters worry that companies such as Morningstar, unwittingly or under pressure from the boycott Israel movement, will add Israeli companies and companies to business in Israel to lists of bad corporate actors, causing capital to flee the country. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/a-new-bds-battlefront-emerges-in-investing-world-with-spotlight-on-morningstar/>

**Defense Ministry to recognize soldiers who swam in toxic river as disabled veterans**

***Navy troops were forced to scuba dive for years in the deeply polluted Kishon River, leading to high rates of cancer and other illnesses; Gantz calls decision ‘historic justice’***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/F200109AH32.jpg)*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 9:47 pm*

View of the Kishon River that overflowed following heavy rain near Emek junction in northern Israel, on January 9, 2020. (Anat Hermony/Flash90)

The Defense Ministry will recognize all Israeli Navy veterans who were forced to swim in the heavily polluted Kishon River in northern Israel during their service and have since contracted a disease as IDF disabled veterans, giving them access to additional benefits and services, after years of refusing to do so.

Until now, these soldiers have not received this designation as a group, as investigations were unable to definitively prove a connection between their illnesses and their time in the polluted river, though some of them were recognized as IDF disabled veterans, particularly those who developed their sicknesses while they were still in the military.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz called the decision to recognize all of the so-called “Kishon divers” as IDF disabled veterans “historic justice.”

“The goal was to send a clear message to IDF soldiers: We are responsible for sending you to battle. We want to bring you home safely, and we will escort those who are injured. This is our responsibility and it doesn’t have an expiration date,” Gantz told reporters.

The Kishon River in northern Israel was used as a dumping ground for years for hazardous waste by petrochemical companies operating out of the port city of Haifa, turning the stream into one of the most polluted bodies of water in the country. The river was found to contain high levels of particularly toxic chemicals, like mercury and arsenic, killing off many of the fish and other wildlife that previously lived in it. It was also known to occasionally catch fire.

Despite this, however, the river was used as a training area for the Israeli Navy’s elite Shayetet 13 and its scuba unit until the early 1990s, with soldiers swimming and diving in it regularly. In total, more than 10,000 soldiers were exposed to the river’s polluted waters over the years, the military found in 2000.

That year, a damning report was published in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper that found that soldiers from these units were becoming sick with cancer and other serious illnesses at far higher rates than in the general population.

In response, the military launched a commission of inquiry, led by a judge, to investigate the allegations, but it did not reach a firm conclusion. As a result, a compromise was reached in which some of the soldiers were recognized as having contracted their illnesses due to their military services, while others were not. Over the years, there have been repeated lawsuits filed by those veterans who were not recognized, along with civilian fishermen who worked in and around the river, against the government and the chemical companies responsible for the pollution. None of them have been successful.

In December, Gantz ordered a review of the matter. A former air force officer, Brig. Gen. (res.) Ran Bashvitz, was appointed to conduct the investigation and instructed to take a “holistic view, including scientific figures, illness rates, compounding influences and the trends in new research about exposure to dangerous chemicals,” the Defense Ministry said.

Bashvitz’s probe determined that the soldiers’ exposure to toxic chemicals in the Kishon River was so extreme that it was “incomparable to any other case like it.”

As a result of the findings, the ministry agreed to adopt a highly irregular across-the-board policy and recognize every “Kishon diver” who later contracted an illness, regardless of type, as an IDF disabled veteran and grant them the benefits that go along with that. These benefits are wide-ranging and include things like discounted municipal taxes, education grants and property tax exemptions. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/defense-ministry-to-recognize-soldiers-who-swam-in-toxic-river-as-disabled-veterans/> [This is a very bad smack at the IDF. One would think if a body of water looked bad you would consider testing before putting soldiers in it for training. – RDB]

**Health minister blames COVID unvaccinated for strain on hospitals**

***Despite waning of coronavirus wave, Nitzan Horowitz says there’s no cause to rejoice; hospitals report blood shortages***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:49 pm*

Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz on Tuesday said people who have refused COVID vaccines were responsible for the heavy strain on hospitals across the country, two days after Israel recorded its highest number of seriously ill COVID patients since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Horowitz told the Kan public broadcaster that the load was due to people who have not been vaccinated and “have singlehandedly brought serious illness upon themselves.” -That is in all probability a lie. With he supposed number of people who have had one, two or three OR MORE JABS in Israel it is not at all likely that it is UnJABed that are causing the problem UNLESS of course if they haven’t had a third or fourth booster in the past 6 months THEN they want to call them UNvaxed. - rdb

The minister said that while the peak of the current wave appears to have passed, many challenges still remain.

“We see a daily decrease in the number of new infections,” he said. “The pandemic is waning, and still, it’s no cause for celebration.”

Health Ministry Director General Nachman Ash said Tuesday in an interview to 103FM Radio that the pressure on the hospitals comes with a high price. [When you read all the stuff from Hospital and administrative folk it is almost like they are glorying in their problems because it shows their power and control – rdb]

“It costs us in human life and in the burden put on medical personnel,” he said, noting, however, that while “every death is painful, we need to remember the other side of the equation — shutting down the economy and imposing restrictions hurts a lot of people.”

Referring to the Omicron subvariant BA.2, Ash said, “Currently, there are no signs that indicate that it is spreading. New variants will continue to pop up. One of the most important things we must do is prepare — follow their development and assess the danger they pose.”

As of Tuesday morning, there were 1,161 hospitalized patients with COVID in serious condition, including 288 patients on ventilators, according to the Health Ministry. The death toll since the start of the pandemic stands at 9,226, with 282 dead in the past week. [Just how many had HCQ or IVER early on???? I bet almost NONE. There is a treatment for this if they would use it and change their process. – rdb]

Close to 44,000 Israelis tested positive for COVID on Monday, out of 181,947 tests, with a positivity rate of 24%. The number of active cases continued to decline on Tuesday, and currently stands at 318,29.

According to Health Ministry statistics, seriously ill COVID patients over age 60 were 12 times more likely to be unvaccinated than vaccinated. As of Tuesday, 54% of all patients with COVID in serious condition were not vaccinated with a booster.

Several big hospitals have reported severe shortages of blood, Kan reported, warning that the continued lack may lead to patients not getting the treatment they require.

According to the report, the hospitals most affected by the shortage are Soroka Medical Center, Assuta Ashdod Medical Center, Shamir Medical Center, Rambam Health Care Campus, Galilee Medical Center and Emek Medical Center.

Some hospitals have found unorthodox ways of dealing with the situation.

Sheba Medical Center has started asking for blood donations from medical staff and their families. Other hospitals said they had launched similar efforts. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/health-minister-blames-covid-unvaccinated-for-strain-on-hospitals/>

**COVID-19 masks impair children's ability to recognize faces, new Israeli study finds**

***Researchers say mask-wearing impacted children's ability to make social interactions with peers and educators, and their ability to form important relationships***

*TPS | Published: 02.08.22, 17:00*

Children find it more difficult to recognize faces that are partially covered by COVID-19 masks, according to a new joint Canadian-Israeli study.

Researchers from York University in Toronto and Ben-Gurion University in Be'er Sheva found that mask-wearing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic also impacted children's "ability to make social interactions with peers and educators, as well as their ability to form important relationships."  
 “Faces are among the most important visual stimuli. We use facial information to determine different attributes about a person, including their gender, age, mood, and intentions. We use this information to navigate through social interactions,” said York University Assistant Professor Erez Freud of the Faculty of Health, the study’s senior author.  
 Researchers used a children’s version of the Cambridge Face Memory Test, considered the best method for measuring face perception abilities in humans, to test the children’s ability to recognize faces with and without masks.  
 They looked at 72 children aged six to 14 and showed them pictures of faces, both upright and inverted. They found that children’s face-perception abilities were impaired by as much as 20%. For comparison, previous studies found that masks hindered facial recognition in adults by 15%.  
 Furthermore, the study found that children’s mental processes used for recognizing faces changed when attempting to recognize masked faces, becoming more analytical over time. Humans, the study noted, usually process the face as a whole rather than by its individual features. This has become impossible when most parts of the face are covered, requiring children to employ new mental strategies.  
 “Not only do masks hinder the ability of children to recognize faces, but they also disrupt the typical, holistic way that faces are processed,” Freud said.  
 “If holistic processing is impaired and recognition is impaired, there is a possibility it could impair children’s ability to navigate through social interactions with their peers and teachers, and this could lead to issues forming important relationships. Given the importance of faces to social interactions, this is something we need to pay attention to.”  
 Freud argued that there should be more research exploring the social and psychological ramifications of wearing masks on children’s educational performance, especially at a time when children around the world are starting to go back to school under restrictive mask mandates. <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/hjej2eljc> [For those of us with age related hearing issues the muffled comments in those that are masked make communication very difficult. – rdb]

**16 alleged Mossad spies go on trial in Turkey — reports**

***Pro-government paper says initial hearings to last four days; suspects charged with ‘political and military’ espionage on behalf of Israel***

*By* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *and* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:46 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/10/mossad_autoOrient_i.jpg)

Photos of 15 men alleged to be Mossad agents, published by the Turkish Sabah daily on October 25, 2021. (Screenshot)

ANKARA, Turkey — Sixteen people went on trial in Istanbul on Tuesday, charged with “political and military” espionage on behalf of Israel, Turkish media reports said.

The defendants, including Palestinians and Syrians, were arrested in October in an operation by Turkey’s national intelligence agency, MIT, according to the pro-government Sabah newspaper and other Turkish media. They face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

The suspects allegedly spied on Palestinian and Turkish students and other people on behalf of Israel, operating in five separate groups, Sabah newspaper reported. Some of the suspects allegedly met with Israeli officials in Switzerland, Croatia, Romania and Kenya.

Turkish intelligence officers reportedly monitored the group for a year before they were arrested.  
 Turkish officials have not commented on the arrests.  
 Sabah said the initial hearings in the trial would last four days.  
 Following the arrests in October, the former deputy chief of the Mossad [denied](https://www.timesofisrael.com/former-mossad-deputy-denies-detainees-in-turkey-are-israeli-spies/) those arrested were Israeli spies. Turkish media later published photos of the alleged agents.  
 The reports of the trial came amid signs of warming ties between Israel and Turkey after years of strained relations, and days after the presidents of the two countries [spoke](https://www.timesofisrael.com/herzog-erdogan-discuss-possible-meeting-in-phone-call/) about a possible meeting. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/16-alleged-mossad-spies-go-on-trial-in-turkey-reports/> [Pity those poor people. It will be interesting to see if any actually come out alive with or without a trial. – rdb]

**Turkey says it will not abandon Palestinian support for closer ties to Israel**

***Ankara's top diplomat says while normalization with Jerusalem may bring two-state solution to Mideast conflict, it would not come at the expense of 'the Palestinian cause'***

*Reuters | Published: 02.08.22, 17:32*

 Turkey will not turn its back on its commitment to a Palestinian state in order to broker closer ties with Israel, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Tuesday, ahead of a planned visit by Israeli President Isaac Herzog next month.

The two countries expelled their ambassadors in 2018 after a bitter falling-out and relations have remained tense but Ankara has taken steps to mend strained regional ties, including with Israel.

Demonstrators hold Palestinian flags as Israeli forces stand guard in the West Bank (Photo: Reuters)

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Herzog would visit Turkey in mid-March, the first such trip in years, adding the two countries could discuss energy cooperation.

Ankara, which supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has condemned Israel's presence in the West Bank and its policy towards Palestinians, while Israel has called on Turkey to drop support for the militant Palestinian group Hamas which runs Gaza.

Speaking to reporters in Ankara, Cavusoglu said a potential normalization between Turkey and Israel may boost Ankara's role in finding a two-state solution, but said Ankara would not compromise on its stance.  
 "Any step we take with Israel regarding our relations, any normalization, will not be at the expense of the Palestinian cause, like some other countries," Cavusoglu said, referring to the rapprochement between Israel and some Gulf countries that has angered Turkey.  
 "Our position there is always clear," he added. "These ties normalizing a bit more may increase Turkey's role regarding a two-state solution as well, as a country that will be in touch with both countries, but we will never turn back on our core principles."  
 Gulf states that have established ties with Israel have sought to reassure the Palestinians that their countries are not abandoning the quest for statehood, despite Palestinian leaders having decried the deals as a betrayal of their cause <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/h1bc00gxyc>

**Iran nuclear talks resume amid mounting pressure for results**

***Russian envoy says negotiations are ‘five minutes away from the finish line,’ adds that ‘a draft of the final document has been crafted’ but several points remain unresolved***

*By* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *Today, 7:27 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/000_9YU3KK-e1644339204954.jpg)

*Chief Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani arrives at the Coburg Palace, venue of the talks aimed at reviving the Iran nuclear deal, in Vienna, on February 8, 2022. (Alex Halada/AFP)*

VIENNA — Diplomats from Iran and world powers reconvened in Vienna on Tuesday to seek a deal reviving Tehran’s 2015 nuclear accord, with pressure mounting for results soon.

Negotiators from Iran and the remaining parties to the agreement — Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — got back to work after a break of a little over a week to return to their capitals for consultations.

A source close to the discussions told AFP that the delegations had arrived in the Austrian capital.

AFP journalists saw Tehran’s chief negotiator Ali Bagheri enter Palais Coburg, a luxury hotel where the talks are taking place, for a meeting with EU official Enrique Mora, who chairs the discussions.

The United States has participated indirectly in the talks because it withdrew from the accord in 2018 under then-US president Donald Trump. US President Joe Biden has signaled that he wants to rejoin the deal. [If the Iranians won’t even recognize the US as part of the so called ‘negotiating group’ by talking to them directly the US should make a simple statement. We exist, we have power, You will not become nuclear and we will see to that. Then they need to fix the problem. – rdb]

The accord, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, granted Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

Under Trump, the US reimposed heavy sanctions on Iran. Tehran has responded by increasing the purity and amounts of uranium it enriches and stockpiles, in breach of the accord.

Officials say that the talks are reaching their final stage, though it’s unclear how long that might take. The negotiations have dragged on for months, punctuated by a long gap last year caused by the arrival of a hard-line new government in Iran. The current eighth round started just after Christmas. [It will probably take just long enough for Iran to process enough uranium to make a bomb and start a war, which could be weeks to months. – rdb]

The three Western European participants have been warning for a while that time is running out for a successful conclusion of the talks. They have argued that the accord will soon become an “empty shell” in light of Iran stepping up its nuclear program.

Iran insists that its program is peaceful.

On Friday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed several sanctions waivers related to Iran’s civilian nuclear activities. The move reverses the Trump administration’s decision to rescind them. [Curing stupidity – impossible. – rdb]

Iran’s foreign minister on Saturday welcomed the sanctions relief, but called it insufficient.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Tuesday that the talks are “currently at a crucial juncture” and that all involved “should enhance the sense of urgency.”

“As the culprit in the Iranian nuclear crisis, the US should thoroughly correct its wrong policy of maximum pressure on Iran and lift all illegal sanctions on Iran and third parties,” Zhao said. “On this basis, the Iranian side should resume full compliance.” [this is a destressing statement and sign. It demonstrates quite well the Chinese perception of the US and the unbelievably weak and ineffective government in power. – rdb] MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-nuclear-talks-resume-amid-mounting-pressure-for-results/>

**New bill aims to prohibit US military aid to Ukraine**

***The proposed legislation would oblige the US government to fix its own border issues before sending military aid to Kiev***

*8 Feb, 2022 17:28*

A group of US lawmakers have introduced a bill to block military aid to Ukraine until the America’s own southern border is properly secured, the main sponsor of the legislation, Republican congressman Matt Rosendale, [said](https://rosendale.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=355) on Tuesday. The legislation, dubbed ‘Secure America’s Borders First Act’, was co-sponsored by nine others.

If adopted, the bill would require the US government to complete the “border wall system” on its southern frontier, as well as achieve “operational control” of the border, before any military aid could be sent to Kiev.

“Before warmongers rush America into another foreign conflict over the borders of Ukraine, at the very least they should ensure our southern border is secure firs*t,”* Rosendale (R-Montana) said as he unveiled the bill.

The Republican lawmaker has also harshly criticized the Biden administration for its border polices, claiming that the country has endured *“an invasion of over two million illegal aliens”* since the president took office.

*“While our nation has miserably failed to secure our own border and protect our own territorial integrity, we are now being told by ‘America Last’ politicians on both sides of the aisle, that it is our obligation to do so for Ukraine,”* Rosendale said.

Ukraine has seen a steady inflow of military aid amid growing fears of an allegedly imminent Russian ‘invasion.’ Over the past few months, Western media and top politicians alike have repeatedly claimed that Moscow has been gearing up to attack its neighbor. No evidence to back up such allegations has yet emerged. Russia has consistently denied the claims, maintaining it has no plans to attack any country.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba revealed the scale of western military aid to Kiev on Monday. In the past few “weeks and months” the country “received more than $1.5 billion*, and more than 1,000 tons of arms and armaments,”* Kuleba stated.

The US remains among the primary source of such aid. In January alone, Washington delivered some 79 tons of military hardware to Ukraine, including some 300 Javelin anti-tank missile systems. Another major haul was sent in by the UK, the British cargo planes delivering a cache of NLAW anti-tank missiles and deploying additional instructors to teach Kiev’s forces to operate the weaponry. <https://www.rt.com/russia/548692-us-border-ukraine-aid-bill/>

**Putin makes deal with Macron over Russian troop buildup – FT**

*The Russian president promised to withdraw up to 30,000 troops from Belarus after joint exercises near the Ukrainian border*

By Jonny Ticklecv8 Feb, 2022 18:24

Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron that Moscow will withdraw its troops from Belarus at the end of joint exercises, due to finish later this month, the Financial Times has reported.

Citing unnamed officials in France, the British newspaper announced that, during the course of their five-hour meeting in the Kremlin on Monday, Putin told Macron that Russian soldiers currently in Belarus as part of the ‘Union Resolve 2022’ drills would not stick around after the practice is complete.

The joint exercises, due to last until February 20, also coincide with a reported buildup of Russian troops near the Ukrainian border. Moscow stands accused of placing more than 100,000 soldiers on the frontier, with some believing this is a sign of an impending military incursion. This claim has repeatedly been denied by the Kremlin, and it has also been played down by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The Belarusian border is less than 200km north of Kiev.

However, if the promise of troop withdrawal is confirmed by Putin, this could significantly reduce tensions that have seen Western nations send soldiers and military equipment to Ukraine. Neither president mentioned any such agreement during the press conference after the talks in Moscow.

According to the FT, Putin also said he would not take any new “military initiatives” and decided to open discussions about the deployment of Russian troops. Furthermore, according to the paper’s sources, the two presidents have agreed to a *“structured dialogue on collective security.”*

The talks between Putin and Macron also come as discussions between Russia and NATO over a legally binding security deal seem to have stalled. Moscow is looking for the US-led military bloc to agree to stop expanding eastwards and also wants foreign nations to remove their troops and weapons from near the Russian border.

Following the meeting, Macron revealed that he had proposed *“concrete security guarantees”* to Putin.

*“President Putin assured me of his readiness to engage in this sense and his desire to maintain stability and the territorial integrity of Ukraine,”* the French head of state said, while the Russian leader dubbed Macron’s ideas a possible *“basis for further joint steps.”*

Macron is set to meet Zelensky in Kiev on Tuesday. <https://www.rt.com/russia/548618-troops-withdrawal-belarus-border/>

**N.Korea boasts of 'shaking world' by testing missiles that can strike US**

**Also among the tests was the first firing since 2017 of a Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile, capable of striking US territories in the Pacific Ocean.**

By REUTERS Published: FEBRUARY 9, 2022 00:21

North Korea boasted on Tuesday that it is one of only a handful of countries in the world to field nuclear weapons and advanced missiles and the only one standing up to the United States by "shaking the world" with missile tests.

International tension has been rising over a recent series of [North Korean ballistic missile tests](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-694952), actions long banned by the UN Security Council. January was a record month of such tests, with at least seven launches, including a new type of "hypersonic missile" able to maneuver at high speed.

Also among the tests was the first firing since 2017 of a Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile, capable of striking US territories in the Pacific Ocean.

A statement from North Korea's Foreign Ministry said a series of tests since New Year represented "remarkable achievements" that strengthened North Korea's "war deterrence."

It also cited the Hwasong-15, the longest-range intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) ever launched by North Korea, which hasn't been fired since its first test in 2017, and is believed to have the range to deliver a nuclear warhead anywhere in the United States.

"In today's world where many countries waste time dealing with the United States with submission and blind obedience, there’s only our country on this planet that can shake the world by firing a missile with the US mainland in its range," it said.

"There are more than 200 countries in the world, but only a few have hydrogen bombs, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and hypersonic missiles," it said.

Asked to comment, the US State Department repeated past statements that it harbored no hostile intent towards North Korea and urging a return to dialog, calls Pyongyang has persistently ignored. A State Department spokesperson also called North Korea a threat to international peace and security and global nonproliferation efforts.

"The United States has a vital interest in deterring (North Korea), defending against its provocations or uses of force, limiting the reach of its most dangerous weapons programs, and above all keeping the American people, our deployed forces, and our allies safe," the spokesperson said. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-695917>

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| **Pierre Kory: 'Our Medical System Failed; Its a Corrupt System**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW1bEQXU_W8&t=72s> |

**Johnson & Johnson stops Covid-19 vaccine production – NYT**

***Johnson & Johnson has quietly paused production of its Covid vaccine, according to a media report***

*8 Feb, 2022 18:48*

US multinational Johnson & Johnson suspended production of its Covid-19 vaccine late last year amid a massive push by the federal government and health officials to promote getting inoculated, The New York Times reported on Tuesday, citing sources familiar with the situation.

The pause in production is reportedly temporary, but the one plant producing the vaccine in the Dutch city of Leiden has apparently shifted its focus to producing a potentially more profitable vaccine for an unrelated virus.

It’s unclear if the production pause has affected the availability of the single-jab Covid vaccine, as the company has a stockpile of doses. However, one person familiar with the situation says the suspension could mean a reduction in output of a few hundred million doses. The plant is expected to produce more after a few months’ break. Other facilities are awaiting regulatory approval or to actually be up and running to produce the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, according to the NYT report.

Organizations that distribute the vaccine worldwide told the NYT they were unaware of the production pause, with some expressing concern about the timing.

“This is not the time to be switching production lines of anythin*g, when the lives of people across the developing world hang in the balance,”* Dr. Ayoade Alakija, co-head of African Union vaccine distribution.

Unlike the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, Johnson & Johnson’s offering requires only a single shot for the initial inoculation, while the others are delivered via two shots.

The company reported $2.39 billion in sales from the Covid jab for 2021 and has forecast an increase to $3.5 billion for 2022.  <https://www.rt.com/news/548711-johnson-johnson-covid-vaccine-pause/>

**'Potential trap': Steve Bannon accuses prosecutors of SPYING on his lawyer**

***Federal government slammed for 'outrageous and inappropriate' conduct***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 8, 2022 at 11:55am*

Stephen Bannon, a former adviser to President Donald Trump, is charging that federal prosecutors trying to force him to appear before House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's partisan committee investigating the events of Jan. 6, 2021, at the Capitol are now spying on his defense attorney.

[He's already demanded that all of the documents](https://www.wnd.com/2021/12/surprise-look-now-siding-steve-bannon-doj-fight/) used against him be made public, a move that Department of Justice officials frantically have opposed.

He's explained the public needs access to "all the facts" in order to judge "whether the U.S. Department of Justice is committed to a just result." In fact, Pelosi's committee has acted over and over in a strictly partisan manner while reviewing the riot that happened that day – and reportedly trying to pin all the blame on Republicans.

Actually Pelosi, as speaker, has significant responsibility for safe operations of the Capitol complex, and reports have confirmed she refused offers of having National Guard troops there that day to avoid trouble.

Now the [Daily Mail](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10485853/Steve-Bannon-accuses-prosecutors-trying-SPY-lawyer-Bob-Costello.html) reports Bannon's legal team has fired off a court filing charging prosecutors with "outrageous" conduct.

The report explains they accuse prosecutors of monitoring several telephone lines of Bannon's lawyer, Robert Costello, as well as his emails.

Bannon is facing a criminal contempt charge brought by Democrats in Congress over his decision not to answer the questions of the committee, which includes Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the agitator in Congress who for years claimed he had proof of the 2016 Trump campaign's "Russia collusion," a conspiratorial claim that has been debunked.

"Lawyers representing Steve Bannon believe they may have found a way to blow up the government's case against the former Trump adviser – and now say the government breached attorney-client privilege by subpoenaing phone and email records for Bannon's lawyer, Robert Costello, amid their probe," the report explained. [Does this sound a bit like the problem in Israel with the monitoring of phone calls. HUMMM. Laws or no laws, US or Israel. It doesn’t see to matter. These are rogue people. – rdb]

"The lawyers say in an explosive new filing they learned of the efforts to get Costello's phone and email records when the government produced 790 documents as part of the case against Bannon, part of the normal document production in a criminal case."

The "snooping," as the report described, happened even as Costello was meeting with prosecutors "as Mr. Bannon's attorney," in what he thought were "good-faith discussions."

Bannon's filing includes notes from an FBI agent describing meetings with prosecutors, Costello's exchanges with the committee and conversations Costello had about his contacts with the panel.

At issue in the case is whether Bannon, as a former adviser to Trump, is protected by executive privilege, which Trump says protects him from providing information.

Democrats are working to defeat that claim, but it could end up backfiring on them, as if they succeed in destroying Trump's privacy protections – any future Republican president and Congress could demand virtually every single piece of information about the current administration of Joe Biden.

The report said the FBI notes also comment on Costello's work from other famous clients, including former Trump adviser Rudy Giuliani.

The filing accuses the federal government of "'outrageous and inappropriate" conduct. And the filing demands further information – including sharing the subpoena used to obtain the information, and revealing who at the main Justice Department signed off on the effort.

The Daily Mail explained, "Sources familiar with the case said it was a potential trap for defense counsel to be negotiating with government lawyers with a possible indictment looming, while lawyers are surreptitiously using the process for evidence-gathering in the case, while at the same time using subpoenas to glean information about a lawyer's communications with a client."

While the U.S. attorney's office declined comment to the Daily Mail, Bannon's team explained in the report the "impermissible interference with the attorney-client privilege" could be grounds to dismiss the case entirely.  
 The Department of Justice has been battling to restore its reputation ever since several of its employees took part in the strategy that created the now-debunked Russia collusion conspiracy theory against President Trump. Several individuals were fired over that situation, which was called out by a government inspector general who found a long list of wrong actions in that situation.  
 The facts that now have emerged show that the Hillary Clinton campaign promoted the "collusion" theory with the goal of diverting Americans' attention from her email scandal, where she posted government secrets on an unsecure, private email system. The DOJ employees, in effect, helped her.  
 They ran with the false claim, acquiring the Democrat-funded "Steele dossier" and going to a secret court to obtain permission to spy on individuals from the Trump campaign. Those situations remain under federal investigation, with one conviction and several more indictments already resulting from a special investigation. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/potential-trap-steve-bannon-accuses-prosecutors-spying-lawyer/> [The DOJ nor the FBI or CIA have any credibility any longer. They are all deep state players and attempting a leftist/communist shadow government . – rdb]

**Over a dozen American states backing Mexico's attempt to hobble Smith & Wesson**

*By* [*Richard Moorhead, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published February 8, 2022 at 1:51pm*

Thirteen U.S. states have joined a civil lawsuit filed by the government of Mexico against Smith & Wesson, becoming parties to foreign interference to change American gun laws.

Smith & Wesson isn't the only gun company Mexico is targeting in the lawsuit. Glock, Century International Arms, Ruger and Colt are some of the other defendants named, with the litigation targeting the American firearms industry broadly.

The lawsuit demands that the American gun companies limit the distribution of their products as a result of violence within the United States' southern neighbor.

This foreign attack on the Second Amendment is being aided and abetted by [Democratic](https://www.westernjournal.com/democrats-plan-rig-2022-election-keep-democrats-majority-pelosi-speaker/) states.

In [court documents](https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/mexico-smith-wesson-complaint.pdf#page=129) obtained by Courthouse News, Mexico's lawyers accused the gun manufacturers of violating the country's import laws.

Massachusetts, [California](https://www.westernjournal.com/top-california-dem-pathetic-excuse-maskless-photo-magic-johnson/), Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Oregon are listed as amicus parties to the Mexican lawsuit in January [court documents](https://www.justsecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/110-US-States.pdf) published by Just Security.

The amicus brief filed in the case by American states represents cooperation with a foreign government to interfere in domestic American politics.

Through aiding the suit, the states are also jeopardizing the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of their own citizens. The firearms industry employs hundreds of thousands of Americans.

The states filed the brief after Smith & Wesson moved to dismiss Mexico's lawsuit. The company argued that a foreign country had no right to impose its own domestic laws in American courts.

So-called progressive "lawfare" has emerged as a new primary tactic of the [gun control movement](https://www.westernjournal.com/biden-spying-gun-owners-feds-admit-firearm-database-nearly-billion-records/), with bipartisan opposition to gun bans and new restrictions proving insurmountable for gun control's prospects in Congress and state legislatures.  
 Mexico had filed its lawsuit in the United States Court of the District of Massachusetts, selecting a venue potentially more amenable to gun control arguments.  
 In comparison to the United States, Mexico has very restrictive gun laws. The country has only [one legal gun store](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l91pWLzPwzI) located on a military base.   
 In spite of this, the country has much higher levels of gun violence, in great part fueled by drug cartels and criminal organizations.  
 In its federal lawsuit against the gunsmiths, Mexico claims that firearms manufactured by the defendant companies have been used in nearly half of gun violence recorded in the country. "Defendants collectively account for nearly half of all crime guns recovered in Mexico," the lawsuit reads. "From January through May 2020, Defendants accounted for the following percentages of all recovered guns: Smith & Wesson 9.9%; Barrett 2.3%; Beretta 5.8%; Century Arms 6.2%; Colt 10.8%; Glock 6.7%; and Ruger 6.2%."  
 Historically, Mexico has had a legal provision [similar to the Second Amendment](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mexicans-have-the-right-to-own-guns-but-few-do/) in the nation's own constitution. However, the right to bear arms legally has been all but eliminated in the country, with reporting from the [Los Angeles Times](https://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-mexico-guns-20180524-story.html?_amp=true) detailing the months of background checks necessary for legal gun ownership.  
 In a [November speech](https://www.gob.mx/sre/documentos/remarks-by-foreign-secretary-marcelo-ebrard-in-the-un-security-council), the foreign minister of Mexico called for regulation of gun manufacturers at the United Nations, appearing to take aim at the United States' gun laws.  
 "This lawsuit does not question the right of countries and individuals to sell arms legally," claimed Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, "but rather denounces the negligent practices that have serious consequences for other societies."  
 In response to hostility from Democrat-governed states, major American firearms manufacturers, such as [Remington](https://www.westernjournal.com/blue-state-dumped-legendary-gun-maker-decides-relocate-hq-historically-red-state/), have opted to relocate their facilities to jurisdictions that respect the Second Amendment.  
 Remington, the United States' oldest gun manufacturer, had been located in upstate New York for two centuries. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/dozen-states-backing-mexicos-attempt-hobble-smith-wesson/>

**Commentary:**

**Mass Murder by a Medical System that has Lost Its Direction and Soul***By* [*Kelleigh Nelson*](https://newswithviews.com/author/kelleigh/)*|February 8th, 2022  
 People were dying, [yet] all of my ideas were getting shouted down. My superiors were showing up [to my clinical meetings] and getting me to stand down, because I was entertaining the idea that we should do this, that and the other thing, and they didn’t want anything to be done. —Dr. Pierre Kory*  
 *This is a war on cheap repurposed drugs.  —Dr. Paul Marik before testifying on NH Bill that would make Ivermectin available OTC in NH.*  
 *I never thought I’d see the day where doctors are censored, and patients are kept from care.  —Dr. Peter McCullough*  
 *An epidemic, either naturally caused or intentionally caused, is the most likely thing to cause…say…10 million excess deaths.  —Bill Gates – 2017*  
 Were we lied to about the number of deaths from Covid?  Yes!  Were the tests run at cycles too high to purposely show false positives? Yes!  Could someone pass the virus if asymptomatic? No!  Was social distancing valid?  No!  Were masks beneficial? [No](https://newswithviews.com/forty-five-years-of-mask-studies-prove-theyre-worthless/)!  Was the lockdown effective in stopping the viral spread?  [No](https://p.feedblitz.com/t3.asp?/26412/36965747/8177070_/~gellerreport.com/2022/02/johns-hopkins-report-lockdowns-did-not-work-no-impact-on-death-rate.html/)!  
 Have nearly half of small businesses been destroyed? Yes!  Has the economy tanked?  Yes!  Have the big box stores benefitted? Yes!Has domestic abuse risen?  Yes!  Has drug addiction climbed?  Yes!  Have suicide rates escalated? Yes!  Have mental and physical problems risen?  Yes!  Have children lost IQ from the masking? Yes!  Are children disabled via speech impediments and learning disabilities because of the lockdowns and masking?  Yes!  
 Have the AMA, CDC, FDA, NIH protocols saved patients?  Hell no!  They have purposely murdered hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, who could have been saved.  The dissident doctors, scientists and healthcare workers know there are repurposed drugs (inexpensive and available) that could have saved up to 86% of those who perished.  Have those same stakeholders lied about Hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin?  Yes, even Lancet and New England Journal of Medicine lied.  
 Have we been sold a lie via fear mongering and media propaganda?  Yes! Has the government enacted mandates that are unconstitutional?  Yes!  Has the Bill of Rights been violated?  Yes!  
 Are the COVID jabs dangerous to your health and wellbeing? Very!  Are the [actuarial tables showing a rise in deaths of young people](https://www.zerohedge.com/covid-19/long-funeral-homes-short-life-insurers-ex-blackrock-fund-manager-discovers-some-disturbing) who had the jab?  Yes!  Are our soldiers being disabled by the jab? [Yes](https://rairfoundation.com/cover-up-dod-silent-after-whistleblowers-expose-covid-vaccine-injuries-in-military/)! Have we been lied to from day one about the creation of this Wuhan virus and who is responsible?  [Yes](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/02/lawrence-sellin-national-institutes-health-nih-spent-billions-supporting-research-china-including-biowarfare-program/)!  
 Was the CIA involved in planning this pandemic?  Yes!  Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.’s book, [The Real Anthony Fauci](https://nwvstore.com/product/the-real-anthony-fauci-bill-gates-big-pharma-and-the-global-war-on-democracy-and-public-health-childrens-health-defense/), states that there were over 20 “pandemic” simulations beginning in 2000, and Bill Gates, Anthony Fauci and the CIA were involved in every one of them. “The CIA wrote the script, high-level CIA officials participated in every one of those pandemic simulations.”  
 Kennedy states, “So they practiced again and again and again: How to use the pandemic as a pretext for imposing totalitarian controls and for obliterating liberal democracy across the planet.”  
 This was all part of a decades-old globalist-devised blueprint for the future.  
 **“New World System”**  
 The previous two nightmare years were engineered decades ago and exposed in the 1960s.  Dr. Vernon Coleman’s short [17-minute video](https://www.bitchute.com/video/ljsH0I25rpr7/) explains what the globalist architects were up to back then and where we are today…frighteningly close to completion!  He mentioned a dystopian lecture by Dr. Richard Day.  
 In March 1969, Dr. Richard Day, Professor of Pediatrics at Mt. Sinai Medical School in New York gave a chilling lecture about the “New World System.”Previously he had served as Medical Director of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.  He told of future plans, whether as a forewarning or to unburden himself.  He spoke as though he had colluded with the blueprint designers. His warnings for the future were uncannily accurate.  
 Dr. Lawrence Dunegan attended Dr. Day’s lecture.The audience was told not to take notes, but he later recorded his recollections of what was said by Dr. Day. Two of the three tapes made by Dr. Dunegan were transcribed and can be accessed at [this website](https://rense.com/general94/nwoplans.htm).  It’s all there, and we’re experiencing everything Dr. Day told the Pittsburgh Pediatric Society 53 years ago.  I urge you to fully peruse the website it as it contains vital information not included in this article.  
 Dr. Coleman exposed the highlights of Dr. Day’s lecture.  Day warned that in the future, the elderly would be eliminated by making it more difficult for them to access medical care.  He stated that social chaos would be promoted, travel would be restricted, hospitals would become jails, private medicine would be eliminated, the incidence of heart attacks would be deliberately increased, the world population would be reduced, information would be controlled, fake science would be used to promote the myth of global warming, there would be cameras everywhere, sports will become unisex, ID cards will be implanted, food supplies would be controlled, the weather would be controlled, and the people would be controlled.  
 He also warned that books would be banned and removed from libraries if they were considered dangerous.  Professor Day also stated that television sets would be able to watch the people who watch them and that new diseases would be deliberately introduced.  
 Dr. Coleman mentioned we were warned in the 80s that everyone would be affected by AIDS, and by the 2000s, medical organizations were constantly producing unsubstantiated scare stories.  Today the beat goes on…  
 **Our Soulless Medical System**  
 Dr. Dunegan was shocked when Dr. Daystated, “Some of you will think I’m talking about Communism. Well, what I’m talking about is much bigger than Communism!”  
 Of the over 40 topics discussed in the [transcribed two tapes](https://rense.com/general94/nwoplans.htm), I’ve included only a few of Dr. Dunegan’s statements, those that pertain to the medical industry.My comments are in italics.  
 **Limiting access to affordable medical care.**   
 A big item that was elaborated on at some length was the cost of medical care would be made burdensomely high. Medical care would be connected very closely with one’s work but also would be made very, very high in cost so that it would simply be unavailable to people beyond a certain time. Unless they had a remarkably rich, supporting family, they would just have to do without care. And the idea was that if everybody says, “Enough! What a burden it is on the young to try to maintain the old people,” then the young would become agreeable to helping Mom and Dad along the way, provided this was done humanely and with dignity. Then the example was – there could be a nice farewell party, a real celebration. Mom and Dad had done a good job. Then after the party is over, they take the “demise pill.”  
**Planning the control over medicine**.  
 There would be profound changes in the practice of medicine. Overall, medicine would be much more tightly controlled.  Insurance is the racket they’ve been using to control what you are allowed and not allowed.  
 *This has already been exacerbated by Obama’s euphemistically named, “Affordable Care Act.”  The cost of insurance and thus medical care has risen exponentially, along with the cost of prescription medications. More at the* [*Link*](https://rense.com/general94/nwoplans.htm)*.*  
**Elimination of private doctors.**  
 The image of the doctor would change. No longer would he be seen as an individual professional in service to individual patients.  The doctor would be gradually recognized as a highly skilled technician – and his job would change. The job is to include things like executions by lethal injection.  
 [*Healthcare providers in other countries ravaged by COVID have****decided****that age 60 is the cut off age for life or for use of resources that can benefit younger patients.*](https://aquila.usm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1251&context=ojhe)  
 *Last December,* [*New Zealand okayed euthanasia for COVID patients*](https://anglicanmainstream.org/new-zealand-okays-euthanasia-for-covid-patients/)*.*  
 *Ninestates (CA, CO, HI, ME, NJ, NM, OR, VT, and WA) and DC legalized physician-assisted suicide via legislation.  One state, (MT) has legal physician-assisted suicide via court ruling.*  
 The image of the doctor being a powerful, independent person would have to be changed. Dr. Richard Day went on to say, “Doctors are making entirely too much money. They should advertise like any other product.” Lawyers would be advertising too.  
 *Lawyers already are advertising, and very few physicians still have single practices.  All of them are working for an employer in a group practice, which can advertise.*   
 Keep in mind, this was an audience of doctors; being addressed by a doctor. And it was interesting that he would make some rather insulting statements to his audience without fear of antagonizing us. The solo practitioner would become a thing of the past.  
 *They have.*  
 A few die-hards might try to hold out, but most doctors would be employed by an institution of one kind or another. Group practice would be encouraged, corporations would be encouraged, and then once the corporate image of medical care gradually became more and more acceptable, doctors would more and more become employees rather than independent contractors. Along with that, of course, unstated but necessary, is the employee serves his employer, not his patient.  
**New difficult to diagnose and untreatable diseases.**  
 The next heading to talk about is Health and Disease. Day said there would be new diseases to appear which had not ever been seen before. They would be very difficult to diagnose and be untreatable – at least for a long time. No elaboration was made on this, but I remember, not long after hearing this presentation, when I had a puzzling diagnosis to make, I would be wondering, “Is this a case of what he was talking about?” Some years later AIDS developed. I think AIDS was at least one example of what he was talking about. I now think that AIDS probably was a manufactured disease.  
 *Covid has never been isolated, neither have any of the so-called “variants.”*  
**Suppressing cancer cures as a means of population control.**  
 Cancer. He said, “We can cure almost every cancer right now. Information is on file in the Rockefeller Institute, if it’s ever decided that it should be released. But consider – if people stop dying of cancer, how rapidly we would become overpopulated. You may as well die of cancer as of something else.” Efforts at cancer treatment would be geared more toward comfort than toward cure. There was some statement that ultimately the cancer cures which were being hidden in the Rockefeller Institute would come to light because independent researchers might bring them out, despite these efforts to suppress them. But at least for the time being, letting people die of cancer was a good thing to do because it would slow down the problem of overpopulation.  
 *And there’s all the money made from those stricken with the disease.*  
**Inducing heart attacks as a form of assassination.**  
 Another very interesting thing was heart attacks. Day said, “There is now a way to simulate a real heart attack. It can be used as a means of assassination.” Only a very skilled pathologist who knew exactly what to look for at an autopsy, could distinguish this from the real thing. I thought that was a very surprising and shocking thing to hear from this particular man at that particular time. This, and the business of the cancer cure, really still stand out sharply in my memory, because they were so shocking and, at that time, seemed to me out of character.  
 He then went on to talk about nutrition and exercise sort of in the same framework. People would have to eat right and exercise right to live as long as before. Most won’t. In retrospect, I tend to think he meant high salt diets and high fat diets would predispose toward high blood pressure and premature arteriosclerotic heart disease. And that if people who were too dumb or too lazy to exercise as they should, then their circulating fats go up and predispose to disease.  
 Dr. Day also said something about diet information would be widely available, but most people, particularly stupid people, who had no right to continue living anyway, would ignore the advice and just go on and eat what was convenient and tasted good. There were some other unpleasant things said about food. I just can’t recall what they were. But I do remember having reflections about wanting to plant a garden in the backyard to get around whatever these contaminated foods would be. I regret I don’t remember the details about nutrition and hazardous nutrition.  
 *Researchers are now* [*putting COVID mRNA vaccines in lettuce, spinach and edible plants*](https://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/13443/20210930/mad-science-researchers-now-putting-covid-mrna-vaccines-into-vegetables-so-unvaccinated-can-eat-them.htm) *to vaccinate the unvaxxed.*  
 Anybody who was lazy enough to want convenience foods rather than fixing his own also had better be energetic enough to exercise. Because if he was too lazy to exercise and too lazy to fix his own food, then he didn’t deserve to live very long.  
 This was all presented as sort of a moral judgement about people and what they should do with their energies. People who are smart, who would learn about nutrition, and who are disciplined enough to eat right and exercise right are better people – and the kind you want to live longer.  
 *Look at the rise in heart attacks with the COVID vax, not to mention a shortened life because of myocarditis, pericarditis, and a destroyed immune system.*  
 Professor Day also mentioned the need for more jails, and using hospitals as jails.  Hospitals could serve as jails. Some new hospital construction would be designed so as to make them adaptable to jail-like use.  
 Haven’t we already seen this very thing happen to many elderly patients and only by the grace of God have families and attorneys gotten them out of these new COVID-death prisons.  [Attorneys Report Spike in Calls for Help from Families of Patients Hospitalized With COVID-19](https://www.ntd.com/attorneys-report-spike-in-calls-for-help-from-families-of-patients-hospitalized-with-covid-19_735242.html).  
 All of this was forecast in 1969, and nearly everything Dr. Day lectured about has already happened…and at an increasingly accelerated rate.  Today, medical care for the un-jabbed is being denied, social credits are being introduced, and the mandatory childhood jabs are on their way to kill or sterilize our children.  Babies and toddlers are next.  
 What has occurred in the last two years is a culmination of these plans. The hospital protocols for COVID are a death sentence and the unvaxxed “pure bloods” are also paying a hefty price.  
**Vax Mandates**   
 A three year old boy was denied heart surgery in Germany, the UK and Israel [because his parents weren’t “vaccinated](https://welovetrump.com/2022/02/01/3-year-old-boy-refused-heart-surgery-because-parents-were-unvaccinated-against-covid-19/?utm_source=newsletter_wr&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_wr).”  Finally, he was flown to Greece where the surgery was performed.  
 A Boston hospital refused a 31-year-old man a heart transplant because he did not want to be inoculated with C-19 jabs.  One look at the myocarditis and pericarditis stats after these vax injections would deter anyone, yet medical personnel, who are supposed to stay informed, either know nothing, or continue to protect themselves rather than their patients.  They follow their employers’ mandates.  
 Cleveland Clinic has [made it mandatory](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4wnb7ElzeQ) for anyone receiving a transplant to be Covid jabbed.  A kidney transplant became available for Mike Ganim via a friend of the family.  But then devastating news was dropped on them when Cleveland Clinic said the donor had to have the C-19 vax in order to “protect” everyone.  The donor had religious reasons, including freedom, for her refusal of this inoculation.  
 The U.S. [Navy](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/military/navy) is [violating a court order](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/bb-navy-contempt-violating-court-order-covid-vaccine-exemption/?utm_source=salsa&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=cec92799-a918-4197-b82b-b8a6fd6c898f) by allegedly blocking treatment for a traumatic brain injury and inflicting other forms of punishment on SEALs who requested [religious](https://www.foxnews.com/category/us/religion/first-amendment) exemptions to the [coronavirus](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender_category/covid) “vaccine,” according to a new legal complaint.  
**Adverse Effects and Fatalities**  
 The military’s mandated injections resulted in a high rate of disorders, ailments and death, as well as the onset of COVID-19, influenza, pneumonia, and over 100 other conditions.  
 The [findings](https://rairfoundation.com/cover-up-dod-silent-after-whistleblowers-expose-covid-vaccine-injuries-in-military/) of the Department of Defense (DOD) whistleblowers, [as told to attorney Thomas Renz](https://theohiostar.com/2022/01/26/lawyer-thomas-renz-miscarriages-and-cancers-up-300-percent-neurological-problems-up-1000-percent-in-past-year/), are consistent with remarks from OneAmerica CEO J. Scott Davison, who [stated](https://undercurrents723949620.wordpress.com/2022/01/11/unheard-of-40-increase-in-all-cause-mortality/) during a call hosted by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana Hospital Association that “working age people (18 to 64) are dying at a rate that is 40% higher than pre-pandemic rates.”  
 Healthy young sports figures are [dying because of the vax](https://gemmaodoherty.com/108-fifa-footballers-and-over-400-athletes-dead-from-heart-failure-in-six-months-81/); 108 FIFA footballers and over 400 athletes dead from heart failure in six months.  
 Journalist and commentator Daniel Horowitz, who spoke with attorney Renz before Senator Ron Johnson’s panel discussion, [explained](https://www.theblaze.com/op-ed/horowitz-whistleblowers-share-dod-medical-data-that-blows-vaccine-safety-debate-wide-open) in an article published January 26th that the doctors “queried the numbers for hundreds of codes from 2016 through 2020 to establish a baseline five-year average.”  
 An alarming increase in cancer, miscarriages and myocarditis was found in addition to many other diseases (as [outlined in Senator Ron Johnson’s letter](https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/services/files/FB6DDD42-4755-4FDC-BEE9-50E402911E02?fbclid=IwAR3X1Rhd-nfI46-eGOzR9ZZOrqopXLu3SEIh2lDpwCAw1VlDD2ERe46V4tg) to DOD Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III).  
 Hypertension — 2,181% increase  
 Diseases of the nervous system — 1,048% increase  
 Malignant neoplasms of esophagus — 894% increase  
 Multiple sclerosis — 680% increase  
 Malignant neoplasms of digestive organs — 624% increase  
 Guillain-Barre syndrome — 551% increase  
 Breast cancer — 487% increase  
 Demyelinating — 487% increase  
 Malignant neoplasms of thyroid and other endocrine glands — 474% increase  
 Female infertility — 472% increase  
 Pulmonary embolism — 468% increase  
 Migraines — 452% increase  
 Ovarian dysfunction — 437% increase  
 Testicular cancer — 369% increase  
 Tachycardia — 302% increase  
 **Medical Propaganda**  
 There are hundreds of thousands of incidences of hospital protocols for COVID patients and those who received the jabs resulting in death.  COVID fatalities are kept high despite available repurposed drugs and OTC supplements. Ivermectin, Hydroxychloroquine and supplements are cheap, can be used at home, will keep you out of hospital and are on the WHO’s Model List of Essential Medicines.  These effective medications have purposely been maligned, not only by the media, the snakeholders and the majority of medical caregivers, but by The Lancet medical journal and the New England Journal of Medicine.  
 Robert Kennedy Jr. states, “Somebody at the very pinnacle of the medical cartel had twisted arms, kicked groins, and stoved in kneecaps to force these periodicals to abandon their policies, shred their ethics, and spend down their centuries of hard-won credibility in a desperate bid to torpedo HCQ.  To date, neither the authors of the false anti-HCQ claims, nor the journals, have explained who induced them to coauthor and publish the most momentous fraud in the history of scientific publishing.”  
 The globalist goals were always pointed at a “vaccine,” where billions would funnel into the pockets of Gates, Fauci, and their friends in Big Pharma.  Thus, the maligning of repurposed wonder drugs, and the murder of millions was accomplished to fill the coffers of the depopulation enemies of freedom and complete the Great Reset.  
**Conclusion**  
 There can be only one conclusion.  Mass Murder was planned and we are the prey.   
 <https://newswithviews.com/mass-murder-by-a-medical-system-that-has-lost-its-direction-and-soul/>

**The VAXXED Are Still UNVAXXED***By* [*Lex Greene*](https://newswithviews.com/author/lex/)*|February 8th, 2022* According to Joe Biden, more than two-thirds of USA citizens have received one or more of the COVID19 fake “vaccines.” But none of them are “vaxxed” still, and life for the vaxxed is far worse than if they had never fallen for the scam. They live every moment in fear!  
 Round One was sold on the promise that if you would just shut up and take it, you will no longer need to be locked down, isolated, wear a worthless mask, or ever worry about getting or spreading COVID19 and you, “can return to normal life” for being a good little boy or girl, or whatever gender you identify as today.  
 Of course, we have since learned a few important things about who is and who isn’t vaxxed.  
 To this day, no one who has taken one of the Gates-Fauci injections, knows what was in it. They have no idea what is in any of the subsequent injections either. Still today, the “vaccine” inserts remain BLANK. Just ask your local doctor or pharmacist to see a copy of the vaccine inserts. Despite this fact, millions of go-along to get-along citizens mindlessly lined up for the lethal injections, and millions still are two years later.  
 Now we know, one jab isn’t enough. You will need a second, and third, and boosters from this point on, according to the “experts,” whom millions of citizens already followed off this cliff.  
 The CDC has established that if you get one of their “vaccines,” you are NOT vaccinated until fifteen days after your injection. This is due to the fact that more than 80% of adverse events caused by these “vaccines” happens in the first seven days following injection, most often, within the first three days after injection.  
 This is how the CDC gets away with labeling these “vaccine deaths” as “COVID deaths,” and vaccine injuries as COVID19. If someone dies in the first fourteen days following the injection, it’s not a “vaccine death” because according to the CDC, you’re not actually vaccinated until day fifteen, after injection. Never mind that you were well and not dead until you took the JAB. If the “vaccine” killed you within the first fourteen days, you died of COVID19, not the lethal vaccine responsible for your death.  
 More than two years into the COVID scamdemic, here’s what we now know, and all of it has been confirmed by the so-called experts, who told us all the opposite for the past two years.  
 No one is actually vaxxed. Once you take the first injection, you will have to keep taking more injections, because to date, none of the injections prevent infection, transmission, illness, or death. The “boosters” have already proven more lethal than the original injections.  
 None of the masks we were told to wear for the past two years are designed to, or capable of preventing the spread of any virus. Wearing one just makes you look uneducated.  
 None of the injections are FDA Approved. But Hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin have been FDA Approved for human use for decades. Fauci authorized the use of Hydroxychloroquine to eradicate SARS1 between 2003-2005. Fauci has known this is a highly effective and inexpensive treatment from the beginning. So why did he block the use of it for the past two years?  
 Fauci’s drug Remdesivir was taken down years ago due to it causing renal failure, the lungs to fill with fluids (pneumonia), resulting in the need to ventilate patients until dead. This is the ONLY drug Fauci authorized for COVID19 hospitalized patient protocols, and thousands have died in the hospital under this protocol since. They are all labeled “COVID deaths.”  
 Under the “most deadly pandemic in recent years,” the overall death rate in the USA hasn’t changed much, about 0.01% to 0.10% each year, which is very typical, largely dependent upon the length and severity of the “flu season” in any given year. The 2020 and 2021 overall USA death rate remains significantly lower than in past years, despite claims to the contrary.  
 Between 60% and 90% of all COVID hospitalizations today are “vaccinated” patients. Obviously, this is most noticeable in countries with the highest VAX rates, like Israel and the UK. But it’s also a matter of fact in the USA.  
 Even though our lame stream media keeps fearmongering with false numbers, recently announcing the “new milestone of 900,000 Americans dead from COVID19,” the REAL number of deaths in the USA from COVID19 is approximately 54,000, 6% of the death cases marked COVID. This too, has been openly admitted by the CDC, but that hasn’t stopped the Biden regime and their leftist media from using the much scarier 900,000 number. 54,000 is about the same number that die each year of the FLU, on average.  
 Even if we use Biden’s scary 900,000 number, that represents only 0.28% of the US population, meaning that 99.72% of US citizens have easily survived COVID19 over the past two years. But if we use the real number, 54,000 deaths (most likely from the flu), that represents 0.017% of the US population, proving that COVID19 was never a “pandemic” or even an “epidemic” with an overall USA survival rate of 99.98%.  
 As these TRUTHS reach the general public, despite massive efforts to make sure it doesn’t, the people are waking up and they are taking to the streets to shut the entire scamdemic down. People are in the streets of nations all over the globe, the most visible being the trucker and farmer protests in cities across Canada.  
 The people are pissed, and they should be. They have been lied to, dictated to, bribed, threatened, coerced,silenced, socially shamed, and penalized out of their most fundamental human rights for over two years now. As I write, the US Military is purging America’s best war fighters from its ranks for refusing lethal injections already proven to at best, not work, and at worst, cause illness and death.  
 US Companies are still trying to force and coerce their employees into taking these fatal injections against their will and better judgement, just to keep their paychecks, even though there are no standing mandates in effect from any governmental body. **No governmental body or employer has ever had the right or authority to force inject anyone with anything, against their will.**  
 To the wise UNVAXXED, congratulations! You could smell this global fraud from the start and stood your ground to protect yourselves and loved ones from lethal injections at odds with all real known science, and the Global Reset that is the real pandemic behind COVID19. You my friends, are TRUE Americans who stood on facts and real science and never fell for the plethora of lies told to advance an evil global agenda.  
 As for those who are now trapped in the endless injection system, Americans used to be born smart enough to never trust politicians, lawyers, global Marxists and used car salesmen. How did you get so foolish?  
 Last, will you remain this foolish now that you have the real facts and science? Or are you AWAKE now? <https://newswithviews.com/the-vaxxed-are-still-unvaxxed/>

**Palestinians: The Human Rights Violations No One Talks About**

*by* [*Khaled Abu Toameh*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Khaled+Abu+Toameh) *February 8, 2022 at 5:00 am* While international "human rights" organizations such as Amnesty International make false and baseless [claims](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-695055) against Israel, most continue intentionally and systematically to ignore the human rights violations committed by the Palestinian Authority (PA).  
 A [report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjHk5Y6Hc4sJPuQ75Uv369ZgstkeCjzP/view?fbclid=IwAR1XOlE1SMLdCVDd_f1b9VD7c4KEhie2UoY3OzK_WDCyQyy2Yu5QoCRvjhU) published on January 29 by the Palestinian NGO International Commission to Support Palestinian Rights (ICSPR), which seeks to raise awareness of human rights among Palestinians, revealed that the year 2021 witnessed severe setbacks in the exercise of public rights and freedoms under the PA in the West Bank.  
 Ironically, human rights violations increased after PA President Mahmoud Abbas issued a [decree](https://wafa.ps/Pages/Details/18118) on February 20, 2021 for boosting public freedoms ahead of the Palestinian parliamentary and presidential elections, which were supposed to take place on May 22 and July 30 respectively. Abbas later called off the elections, apparently out of fear that his ruling Fatah faction was set to lose the parliamentary vote, as it did in the last election in 2006.  
 Abbas's [decree](https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/123363) called for "establishing an atmosphere of public freedoms in all the territories of Palestine, including the freedom to practice political and national activities." The decree also called for "banning the detention, arrest, prosecution of, or holding to account, individuals for reasons relating to the freedom of opinion and political affiliation."  
 The ICSPR report, however, [found](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjHk5Y6Hc4sJPuQ75Uv369ZgstkeCjzP/view?fbclid=IwAR1XOlE1SMLdCVDd_f1b9VD7c4KEhie2UoY3OzK_WDCyQyy2Yu5QoCRvjhU) that despite the decree, last year sustained "grave violations and abuses" against Palestinians in the West Bank by the PA and its security forces.  
 The violations and abuses, according to the report, include Abbas's [decision](https://apnews.com/article/hamas-middle-east-elections-religion-government-and-politics-e88636bc919f8aab455e01fbbd4b4391) to call off the elections on the pretext that Israel refused to allow the vote to take place in Jerusalem. Abbas had cited Israel's alleged refusal as the only [reason](https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/abbas-wont-go-to-elections-without-jerusalem/2225160) for his controversial decision to postpone the elections indefinitely.  
 The ICSPR report, however, emphasized that, contrary to Abbas's claim, the PA leadership did *not* submit a [request](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjHk5Y6Hc4sJPuQ75Uv369ZgstkeCjzP/view?fbclid=IwAR1XOlE1SMLdCVDd_f1b9VD7c4KEhie2UoY3OzK_WDCyQyy2Yu5QoCRvjhU) to the European Union for holding the elections in Jerusalem. Additionally, the PA leadership did not notify international parties of Israel's alleged refusal to allow the elections to take place in Jerusalem, the group noted. The report [stated](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjHk5Y6Hc4sJPuQ75Uv369ZgstkeCjzP/view?fbclid=IwAR1XOlE1SMLdCVDd_f1b9VD7c4KEhie2UoY3OzK_WDCyQyy2Yu5QoCRvjhU):  
 "The decision to postpone the elections was most likely due to differences within the Fatah faction [headed by Abbas] and its fear of not achieving victory... The decision to delay the elections is an assault on the right of the Palestinian people to practice the democratic process."  
 After PA security officers murdered Palestinian anti-corruption activist Nizar Banat in June 2021, dozens of Palestinians took to the streets to [protest](https://www.aljazeera.net/news/politics/2021/6/28/%D9%88%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D9%86%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AA) the crime. In response, PA security officers beat and arrested [many](https://www.france24.com/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/20210628-%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B6%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%B7-%D9%86%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%88%D8%AD%D8%B2%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B9%D8%A8-%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%AD%D8%A8-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%83%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A9) of the demonstrators, including journalists and human rights activists.  
 On July 5, 2021, ICSPR [revealed](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjHk5Y6Hc4sJPuQ75Uv369ZgstkeCjzP/view?fbclid=IwAR1XOlE1SMLdCVDd_f1b9VD7c4KEhie2UoY3OzK_WDCyQyy2Yu5QoCRvjhU), a number of female Palestinian journalists and political activists were beaten and arrested during a protest outside the PA police headquarters in Al-Bireh, the twin city of Ramallah, the de facto capital of the Palestinians.  
 According to the ICSPR report, more than 200 Palestinians were arrested by the PA security forces in 2021 because of their political affiliation and for expressing their views in public. The PA security forces also continued to target dozens of Palestinian journalists during the same year.  
 "The data shows that there is an official [PA] policy to undermine freedom of expression through detentions or attacks on journalists and activists," the [report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjHk5Y6Hc4sJPuQ75Uv369ZgstkeCjzP/view?fbclid=IwAR1XOlE1SMLdCVDd_f1b9VD7c4KEhie2UoY3OzK_WDCyQyy2Yu5QoCRvjhU) stated.  
 "The [Palestinian] judiciary was involved [in this policy] by extending the detention of dozens of human rights and anti-corruption activists, although the detentions were against the background of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. A number of detainees had reported that they were beaten and denied fair trials."  
 In August alone, the PA security forces committed 287 violations against Palestinians, including arbitrary arrests of a physicist, activists, lawyers and others. Ten detainees went on hunger strike in PA prison and the health condition of two others deteriorated as a result of torture. Moreover, another four Palestinians running in the parliamentary election complained that they had been assaulted by the PA security forces.  
 The ICSPR report revealed that the PA security forces [arrested](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjHk5Y6Hc4sJPuQ75Uv369ZgstkeCjzP/view?fbclid=IwAR1XOlE1SMLdCVDd_f1b9VD7c4KEhie2UoY3OzK_WDCyQyy2Yu5QoCRvjhU) dozens of Palestinians on the eve of the anniversary of the founding of the Islamist Hamas movement. The PA security forces also targeted Palestinians who celebrated the release of Palestinians from Israeli prison and confiscated Hamas banners and flags.  
 On December 22, 2021, Amir Al-Liddawi, a Palestinian from the city of Jericho, [died](https://www.arab48.com/%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA/%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/2021/12/22/%D8%A3%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%A7-%D9%88%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%A3%D8%AB%D8%B1%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D8%A5%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%AA%D9%87-%D8%A5%D8%AB%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A3%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%B2%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A9) of wounds he sustained while he was being chased by PA security officers during a reception for a Palestinian released from Israeli prison.  
 In two separate incidents, the PA security forces attacked mourners participating in the funerals of [Jamil Al-Kayyal](https://shehabnews.com/post/92871/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%A3%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%B2%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%85-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%B5-%D9%85%D9%88%D9%83%D8%A8-%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%8A%D9%8A%D8%B9-%D8%B4%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%B3-%D8%AC%D9%85%D9%8A%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84) and [Amjad Abu Sultan](https://qudsn.net/post/188373/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88-%D8%B9%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%AA-%D9%85%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B2%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D8%A8%D9%88-%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%86), who were killed during clashes with the Israeli army in Nablus and Bethlehem.  
 The [report](https://icspr.ps/ar/?p=11859) concluded:  
 "The political and arbitrary arrests carried out by the Palestinian Authority security services is a flagrant violation of the international law... Political and arbitrary detention is prohibited in all international treaties and human rights conventions. It is also a grave infringement on the Palestinian Basic Law."  
 Another report, published on December 14, 2021 by [Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism](https://arij.net/investigations/prisoners-palestine-en/) (ARIJ), a media organization based in Jordan, also accused the Palestinian Authority of committing human rights violations, including torture.  
 The [report](https://arij.net/investigations/prisoners-palestine/) pointed out that PA Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh stated in February 2021 that the Palestinian security forces do not detain people for freely expressing their opinion.  
 "The truth, however, was far from that," the ARIJ [report](https://arij.net/investigations/prisoners-palestine-en/) said.  
 "In the same month, the Independent Commission for Human Rights recorded nine complaints related to political arrests made by the security services in the West Bank whose head is the prime minister himself as he is also Minister of Interior [in charge of the PA security forces]."  
 The [report](https://arij.net/investigations/prisoners-palestine-en/) analyzed 250 arrest cases between January 2018 and June 2021, and noted:  
 "Not a single case went without one or more instances of violation of procedures related to arrest, detention and fair trial guaranteed by the Palestinian Criminal Procedures Law and the Palestinian Basic Law of 2003."  
 On January 31, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke on the phone with Abbas. The two, [according](https://wafa.ps/Pages/Details/40586) to the PA's official news agency Wafa, discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian territories and bilateral relations between the Palestinians and the Americans. US State Department spokesperson Ned Price [said](https://www.state.gov/secretary-blinkens-call-with-palestinian-president-abbas/):  
 "They [Blinken and Abbas] discussed the importance of strengthening the US relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people, as well as the need to improve quality of life for Palestinians in tangible ways. They also discussed the challenges facing the Palestinian Authority and the need for reform."  
 Glaringly absent from this phone conversation with Abbas was mention of the scandalous human rights violations committed by the PA.  
 The Biden administration does not seem to be concerned with such violations, including the massive crackdown on Palestinian journalists and human rights activists. Unless the wrongdoing can be pinned on Israel, this administration clearly could not care less.  
 Blinken reportedly told Abbas that the Biden administration is [committed](https://www.state.gov/secretary-blinkens-call-with-palestinian-president-abbas/) to the "two-state solution."  
 Under the current circumstances, the Biden administration is [stating](https://www.state.gov/secretary-blinkens-call-with-palestinian-president-abbas/) that it wants to facilitate Abbas' creation of another Arab dictatorship that suppresses public freedoms and sanctions torture and intimidation.  
 The ICSPR and ARIJ reports show that the Palestinian dictatorship entity already exists and is actively arresting, torturing, and killing its critics. What else do Blinken and the rest of the international community need to hear before they stop trying to empower such abusive governance and instead heed the voices of these Palestinians?  
 *Khaled Abu Toameh is an award-winning journalist based in Jerusalem.* https://gatestoneinstitute.us9.list- manage.com/track/click?u=ae44aaf3f07dbffc928ba7cb5&id=b1b8cbf727&e=1a28dbbe19

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**US Air Force sends 'nuke sniffer' craft to Mediterranean**

***Does the United States suspect that Russian ships in the region are armed with nuclear missiles?***

*Israel National News 08.02.22 15:51*

US Air Force plane (illustrative) US Air Force

On Tueday this morning, a special airplane belonging to the United States Air Force, a Constant Phoenix aircraft, took off from the United Kingdom on its way to the eastern Mediterranean, off the coasts of Syria and Israel.

The Constant Phoenix is what is known as a "nuke sniffer" and is the only such craft in the U.S. Air Force, a special-purpose aircraft developed on the basis of the Boeing C-135 Stratolifter. Its mission is to analyze particles in the atmosphere for the purpose of detecting and identifying nuclear explosions. It does so by flying through suspect areas and collecting air samples, while employing advanced air filtration techniques in order to protect its flight crew.

According to UK Defence Journal, it is very rare for a nuke sniffer to enter the Mediterranean. With the presence of several Russian ships in the area, it is surmised that the United States wishes to know whether those ships are armed with nuclear missiles, and also whether there are Russian nuclear submarines in the region. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321951>

**Fire breaks out following explosion in Abu Dhabi building**

***Explosion believed to have been caused by a gas cylinder. Fire extinguished, no injuries reported.***

*Elad Benari Published: 09.02.22 00:02     Updated: 09.02.22 00:45*

At least one and possibly two explosions were heard in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday evening.

Reports said police and emergency response units were dispatched to a tower that some in the area said may have been hit by a rocket.

Other reports indicated that this may have been a gas cylinder explosion.

The UAE’s official news agency reported that a fire that broke out as a result of the explosion was extinguished and that there were no injuries.

Abu Dhabi is scheduled to host UEFA's Club World Cup tournament this week. Some reports suggested one of the explosions occurred 20 km from the hotel of the Brazilian football team Palmerias, but that has not been confirmed.

The incident follows several attacks on the UAE by Yemen’s Houthi rebels in recent weeks. Last week, the Houthis [fired a ballistic missile](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321418) which was intercepted by the local air defense systems.

The attack occurred during [the visit of President Isaac Herzog](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321414) to the UAE.

In mid-January, the Houthis [attacked three oil tankers](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/320616) near Abu Dhabi. The attack killed three people and wounded six at an Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. fuel depot near Al-Dhafra. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321972>

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| A close-up of a pretzel with sprinkles  Description automatically generated with low confidenceA close-up of a stethoscope  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**LEV U’NESHAMA (HEART AND SOUL) – TZFAT, ISRAEL**  **ANNUAL TWO FOR ONE PURIM MITZVAH**  **Purim: Thursday, March 17, 2022**  ***MITZVAH NUMBER ONE:*** Send Purim Gift Boxes to family and friends in the US. The attractive gift boxes contain an assortment of strictly kosher holiday treats.  ***MITZVAH NUMBER TWO:***Profit from your order will help provide Passover food to needy families in Tzfat Israel. One gift box is $26 (100 NIS) including postage and handling. (Expensive postage rates and delivery problems prevent our accepting Canadian orders.)  ***IT’S SIMPLE TO ORDER! (DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, March 2)***  **Shoppers: First** email your recipient list with names, addresses and brief personal messages to: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  **Payment** for your order with PayPal: use the recipient email address: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  (Tzfat shoppers may leave their cash payments at the Torah Gems Bookstore.)  Or . . . simply go to our website: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com/) and use either PayPal or your credit card  (Israeli or US) on the "How You Can Help" page. If you use Zelle, a US to US bank transfer , you may do so by using the email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  **US shoppers:** Send checks made payable to Simcha Smolensky.  **Send to:** Simcha Smolensky, 6933 N Kedzie Ave, Unit 116, Chicago IL 60645  **Contact me if you have questions:** [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  ***MITZVAH OPTION:****If you don’t want to order Gift Boxes, y*our donation in any amount will be appreciated. Send your check made payable to Simcha in Chicago or use PayPal or go to our web site, as shown above and select PayPal or use your credit card (Israeli or US). Designate on PayPal that the donation is only for the Purim program.  ***You can help make Passover more joyful for a needy Tzfat family.***  ***Yaffa Smolensky, Volunteer Program Manager***  ***Email:***[***mortsmo@aol.com***](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)***web site:***[***www.levuneshama.com***](http://www.levuneshama.com/) |

**02/08/2022 NEWS - Purimis coming - March 17 see** [**below**](#purim)**!**

**Jerusalem - Behind the scenes of discoveries in Jerusalem**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYVNID-GSoI**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYVNID-GSoI)

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| **"The modern susceptibility to conformity and obedience to authority indicates that the truth endorsed by authority is likely to be accepted as such by a majority of the people." -- David Edwards (1962-) British political writer, columnist** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TS bat Y - Returned home but still ill**  **Pray for BB – Severe sciatic needing procedure.**  **Pray for TH - Knee and Blood pressure problems.**  **Pray for EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 7:4But Pharaoh will not hearken unto you, and I will lay My hand upon Egypt, and bring forth My hosts, My people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt, by great judgments. 5And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth My hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.' 6And Moses and Aaron did so; as the LORD commanded them, so did they. 7And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spoke unto Pharaoh.

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| |  | | --- | | **Attorney Reiner Fuellmich's Opening Statements**  **@ Grand Jury, Court Of Public Opinion**  **This is only 18 minutes and you need to watch this to understand the issues**  [**https://rumble.com/vu5ro7-attorney-reiner-fuellmichs-opening-statements-grand-jury-court-of-public-op.html**](https://rumble.com/vu5ro7-attorney-reiner-fuellmichs-opening-statements-grand-jury-court-of-public-op.html)  **For more information and follow up posting of the proceedings:**  [**https://www.grand-jury.net/**](https://www.grand-jury.net/) | |

**IDF launches surprise Gaza drill to test Southern Command’s readiness**

***Exercise is meant to simulate a sudden outbreak of violence along the border; residents told to expect to see major troop movements***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *Today, 9:24 am*

**The Israel Defense Forces launched a surprise exercise simulating a sudden outbreak of fighting on the Gaza border on Monday, the military said**.

**The exercise is meant to test the readiness of the IDF Southern Command and its ability to respond to a rapidly developing conflict and its “inter-organizational and inter-branch cooperati**on,” the IDF said in a statement.

**Residents of the Gaza border area were told they should expect to see large numbers of ground troops and aircraft in the area and may hear the sounds of explo**sions.

**Monday’s drill was part of a series of exercises known as “Chief of Staff Evaluations,**” which began under IDF chief Aviv Kohavi as a way to assess the military’s preparedness on a number of fronts.

As part of these examinations, the Israeli Navy simulated a response to a sudden maritime threat on the Lebanese border in September 2019; a few months later the military was forced to respond to a sudden “cyber-attack,” which shut down key computer systems; in 2020, the IDF Central Command simulated [a kidnapping and outbreak of violence](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-surprise-drill-idf-simulates-kidnapping-outbreak-of-violence-in-west-bank/) in the West Bank; and last November, the military tested how quickly it could [call up reservists](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-launches-surprise-reservist-drill-amid-month-long-exercise-series-in-north/) should fighting break out in Lebanon, among others.

**Though these surprise evaluations are kept secret from those taking part in them, the military said that Monday’s exercise was planned in advance as part of the 2022 training sche**dule.

The Southern Command’s performance during the surprise drill will be assessed by the IDF comptroller and the IDF Operations Directorate. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-launches-surprise-gaza-drill-to-test-southern-commands-readiness/>

***Unknown assailants throw grenade into grocery in Petah Tikva***

***Just four days prior to the grenade attack, unidentified assailants stabbed and wounded the store owner.***

*By* [*JERUSALEM POST STAFF*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jerusalem-post-staff) *Published: FEBRUARY 8, 2022 00:05 Updated: FEBRUARY 8, 2022 04:34*



***Police at the scene of a grenade attack on a grocery store in Petah Tikva, Israel, February 7, 2022. (photo credit: COURTESY)***

**Unknown individuals threw a grenade at a produce store in Petah Tikva, Ynet reported on Monday. No one was hurt in the attac**k.

**Just four days prior to the grenade attack, unidentified assailants** [**stabbed**](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-695391) **and wounded the** store owner.

**Last week, the store owner was taken to Beilinson** [**Hospital**](https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/coronavirus/article-694736) **in moderate condition following the stabbing. The circumstances of the stabbing and the grenade attack are currently under investigation**, but Kan News reported at the time that the "background is apparently criminal." <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-695815>

**IDF probe blames flawed culture at top of elite Egoz unit for friendly fire deaths**

***Deputy commander and other officers removed from posts; detachment head to be suspended from command for 2 years over incident in which soldiers showed ‘no common sense,’ army says***

*By* [*Judah Ari Gross*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/judah-ari-gross/) *7 February 2022, 11:53 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/WhatsApp_Image_2022-02-06_at_17.46.17_1.jpeg)

***An undated photograph of Egoz soldiers taking part in an exercise. (Israel Defense Forces)***

**A number of officers from the elite Egoz unit will be removed from their positions, though notably not its commander, for their role in the deaths of two officers in a deadly case of friendly fire last month during an unplanned search for night vision equipment that had been stolen from their unit the day before,** the Israel Defense Forces said Monday.

**An investigation into the incident found that the unit had a “culture of failing to report and investigate [incident**s],” that the troops displayed a major lapse in judgment in the incident, and that they conducted their wildcat patrol in a particularly dangerous way, with guns loaded and bullets in their chambers, in clear violation of IDF protocol and values, according to Maj. Gen. (res.) Noam Tibon, who led the probe.

**Speaking to reporters, Tibon said the incident was particularly troubling as those involved, including the officers who were killed, were not young soldiers but veteran commanders,** on track to hold yet higher positions within the military, who repeatedly and flagrantly violated IDF norms for entirely unnecessary and unclear reasons.

**Tibon said the writing had been on the wall in the two days preceding the deadly friendly fire inciden**t and that the unit’s chain of command could have and should have intervened to prevent the deaths of Maj. Ofek Aharon, 28, and Maj. Itamar Elharar, 26.

**In a letter that was distributed throughout the military on Monday, IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi wrote that their deaths were caused by “professional failings, failure to obey orders, and most of all a grave lapse in ju**dgment.”

A picture containing person, sky, outdoor, person

Description automatically generated **The incident came shortly after the military announced it was changing its rules of engagemen**t to allow soldiers to use deadly force against people breaking into army bases and stealing equipment, leading to claims that the deaths were the consequence of this less restrictive open-fire policy. But Tibon said he did not find that to be the case, as the officers involved effectively put themselves in so dangerous a position that their use of deadly force was in response to what they perceived as an immediate threat to their lives, rather than as part of an arrest effort.

***Undated photographs of Maj. Itamar Elharar, left, and Maj. Ofek Aharon, who were killed in a friendly fire incident outside their base in the Jordan Valley on January 12, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)***

**At the same time, Tibon said junior officers and lower-ranking soldiers indeed do not have a firm grasp on the rules of engagement, leading to different interpretations of the open-fire polic**y. In a statement, the IDF said that the issue would be addressed immediately, with Kohavi calling for the entire military to halt its normal activities and hold a week-long review of the rules of engagement and other issues related to routine IDF protocols in order to “root out unacceptable norms.”

**Despite the severity of Tibon’s findings, the commander of the Egoz unit, whose name is barred from publication, was not removed from his position, th**ough he did offer to resign, according to the head of the IDF Central Command, Maj. Gen. Yehuda Fuchs. Fuchs told reporters that Kohavi refused to accept the resignation. Instead, Kohavi ordered that the Egoz commander complete his tenure in the unit, but nixed his planned promotion to command the IDF’s Alexandroni Brigade and barred him from command positions for the next two years. **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-probe-fingers-flawed-culture-at-top-of-elite-egoz-unit-for-friendly-fire-deaths/> **Very bad news for the IDF. - rdb**

**Court cancels hearing in Netanyahu trial to mull police spying implications**

***Judges give prosecutors until Tuesday afternoon to respond to claims about illicit hacking of figures tied to case, after earlier rejecting request by defense lawyers for delay***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:47 pmUpdated at 5:25 pm*

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| ***[Opposition and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu addresses a Likud party meeting at the Knesset, on February 7, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/F220207OF96.jpg)***  ***Opposition and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu addresses a Likud party meeting at the Knesset, on February 7, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)*** | ***[Supporters of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu protest outside his trial at the District Court in Jerusalem, February 7, 2022. The placards (left) blame former attorney general Avichai Mandelblit for fabricating the charges and (right) compare the case to the Dreyfus affair. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/F220207YS15.jpg)***  ***Supporters of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu protest outside his trial at the District Court in Jerusalem, February 7, 2022. The placards (left) blame former attorney general Avichai Mandelblit for fabricating the charges and (right) compare the case to the Dreyfus affair. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*** |
| ***[Former Bezeq chief Shaul Elovitch, one of the defendants, arrives for a court hearing in the trial of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, at the District Court in Jerusalem on February 7, 2022. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/F220207YS20.jpg)***  ***Former Bezeq chief Shaul Elovitch, one of the defendants, arrives for a court hearing in the trial of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, at the District Court in Jerusalem on February 7, 2022. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*** | ***[Prosecutor Ronit Tirosh at a hearing at the District Court in Jerusalem on February 7, 2022, where former PM Netanyahu is on trial (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/F220207YS25.jpg)***  ***Prosecutor Ronit Tirosh at a hearing at the District Court in Jerusalem on February 7, 2022, where former PM Netanyahu is on trial (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)*** |

**The judges in former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s ongoing corruption trial on Monday cancelled a scheduled court hearing for the next day, as they await answers about swirling police phone spying allegati**ons.

**The Jerusalem District Court gave prosecutors until 2 p.m. Tuesday to respond to questions regarding the illicit phone spying. The judges will convene Wednesday to discuss** how to proceed, the court said.

**The decision came after the court had earlier rejected a request for a delay by attorneys for Neta**nyahu and other defendants.

The attorneys filed the petition calling for a pause [following an explosive report](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministry-heads-netanyahu-associates-activists-said-targeted-by-police-with-spyware/) Monday morning that said the Israel Police used the NSO Group’s Pegasus spyware to hack into the phones of a wide range of public figures — including associates and family members of Netanyahu as well as multiple people currently involved in the trial — without any judicial oversight or approval.

**According to the report, which was unsourced, police hacked the phones, among others, of former Walla CEO Ilan Yeshua; former Communications Ministry directors general Shlomo Filber and Avi Berger; Iris Elovitch, the wife of Shaul Elovitch, the former controlling shareholder of Bezeq, both of whom are defendants in the Netanyahu trial; former Bezeq CEOs Dudu Mizrachi and Stella Hendler; former Walla editor-in-chief Aviram Elad, and other journalists at Walla. The abuse use of the spyware** [**reportedly**](https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministry-heads-netanyahu-associates-activists-said-targeted-by-police-with-spyware/) **extended far beyond people involved in the Netanyahu investigation** and trial, with those illicitly targeted also said to include activists and demonstrators (including against Netanyahu), mayors, ministry director-generals, journalists and others.

**In Case 4000, one of the three graft cases for which the former prime minister is on trial, Netanyahu is alleged to have advanced regulatory decisions** as communications minister and prime minister that immensely benefited Elovitch, in exchange for editorial control over the Walla news site. The former premier denies the charges against him.

Yeshua, the first witness to testify in the corruption trial, appeared in court repeatedly over a period of several months. Elad and Berger have also testified, and Filber had been slated to take the stand in the coming weeks.

Jack Chen, an attorney for the Elovitches, said Monday that “for years we have been warning against a flawed and tendentious investigation that crossed all boundaries.” Today, he said, in light of the reports, “nobody can keep saying that we exaggerated.”

**Chen said “the most urgent thing to do for all of our sakes is to stop, conduct an independent investigation of what happened, understan**d its significance and then start making corrections.”

The report published Monday, weeks after Calcalist first reported on the alleged police use of such tactics, also said that Avner Netanyahu, the son of the former prime minister, and Netanyahu advisers Yonatan Urich and Topaz Luk had been targeted. Avner Netanyahu’s phone was said to have been hacked due to police suspicions that his mother, Sara, used it.

**News that Filber was targeted by police spying first broke last week, t**hough the Kan public broadcaster [reported that](https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-lawyers-expected-to-seek-delay-of-key-testimony-over-phone-hacking-scandal/) so far, prosecutors believe any improper use of spyware technology was not tied to evidence used in the Netanyahu case.

On Friday, the Jerusalem District Court [gave state prosecutors](https://www.timesofisrael.com/court-orders-state-to-respond-by-tuesday-to-alleged-police-hacking-in-netanyahu-case/) until Tuesday to answer questions from the defense about police use of spyware in the investigation into the former premier.

Attorneys for Netanyahu and other defendants in the case have demanded to know exactly what data was obtained, how it was used and whether others involved in the trial were also targeted in the operation, among other questions. Prosecutors have said they are examining the matter. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/court-rejects-netanyahu-defense-request-to-delay-trial-after-bombshell-spying-report/> **[This is one of the most heinous breeches of police conduct that you can see. Unfortunately you can almost be assured that this type of surveillance is in today’s Orwellian society the norm. It is enough to throw your phone away, unplug your TV and any other media devise in you home or auto. The modern “techno” facilitated trash is a hazard. – rdb]**

**Netanyahu rails against cops over spyware claims: Like IDF bombing Israeli civilians**

***Opposition laments latest bombshell report as a ‘dark day’ for Israel, says any investigation must have backing from both coalition and opposition***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 6:50 pm*

**Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday decried alleged illicit police phone hacking, including of his son and figures involved in his trial, as a “dark day” for Isr**ael.

**“This matter concerns all Israeli citizens, not just right or left,” he told the Knesset plenum**. “Something inconceivable has happened here**. Elements in the police illegally spied, using the most aggressive tools in the world, on co**untless citizens — journalists, social activists from right and left, mayors, businesspeople, politicians and their families,” the former premier said.

***[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/F220207OF122-e1644251010952.jpg)Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a Knesset plenum session on February 7, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)***

**“They exposed citizens, followed them, listened in on them, and got into their most buried se**crets. Who knows what improprieties they used it for? A spying application meant to be used against terror and to fight our enemies turned into an everyday tool for police to spy on civilians, in violation of every law and norm,” he added.

**His comments came in the wake of an explosive report Monday morning by the Calcalist business daily alleging that police used the NSO Group’s Pegasus spyware to hack into the phones of government official**s, mayors, activists, journalists and his own family members and advisers.

Netanyahu likened the alleged spying to the Israel Defense Forces “using planes meant to be used against Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas to blow up Israeli civilians.”

**[I can’t help but be reminded of the verse from *Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them..* I well remember a comment made in a professional ethics meeting which has always been in the back of my mind. “If you don’t want to read about it on the front page of the newspaper then don’t even consider doing it” - rdb]**

The **former premier said an investigation of the allegations must be backed by both the coalition and opposition, throwing his support behind an earlier proposal** by his Likud party.

“Only thus can we restore public trust in our state and democracy,” he said.

**Speaking earlier in the day at a Likud faction meeting, faction leader Yariv Levin  said “every citizen should lose sleep over” the alleged ext**rajudicial eavesdropping.

**“This is not a right or left issue. This is abuse**, in a terrible way, of the immense power given to law enforcement. Their job is to protect democratic society, not to destroy it and create a reality in which we live under shadowy regimes,” he said.

**Levin urged both the coalition and opposition to appeal to President Isaac Herzog to get involved in establishing an investigative panel. U**nder Levin’s proposal, Herzog and representatives of the coalition and opposition would together appoint the commission.

**There did not appear to be much appetite for Likud’s suggestion inside the governme**nt, however, with numerous ministers calling for the establishment of a state commission of inquiry into the allegations without mentioning involvement by Herzog or the opposition.

**Earlier Monday, Public Security Minister Omer Barlev announced he was establishing a government-appointed commission to look into the claims that police illicitly spied on dozens of public officia**ls, activists and citizens. Unlike a state commission of inquiry, a government commission does not require approval by the full cabinet for its establishment.

Barlev said it appeared from initial evidence that “the failures, if any, were under previous [police] commissioners, previous public security ministers and under previous governments.”

“Under my watch,” he added, “these failures will not happen. The police are under my responsibility and my authority, and I will make sure that if there was a violation of democracy in previous years, I will denounce it and not let it be repeated.”

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Monday that “if the reports are true, they are very serious.”

He also implied that Gali Baharav-Miara, who was approved Monday afternoon as the new attorney general, will take over an investigation.

**Monday’s Calcalist report was the second half of a shocking expose detailing police spying against dozens of individuals, including the then-directors general of the finance, justice, communication and transportation ministries; prominent businessman Rami Levy; Ilan Yeshua, t**he former CEO of Walla and currently a top witness in the trial against Netanyahu; Netanya Mayor Miriam Feirberg; Avner Netanyahu, the son of the former prime minister; West Bank settlers just ahead of scheduled evacuations of illegal outposts; leaders of Ethiopian-Israeli protests against police, and many others, without any judicial approval or oversight.

The news was condemned by a wide range of lawmakers and public officials across the political spectrum, who called the reports disturbing and deeply concerning.

**Just before leaving office, former attorney general Avichai Mandelblit appointed the members of a committee of inquiry into the issue, headed by Deputy Attorney General Amit Marari. The** state comptroller has also announced his own investigation into the claims.

Pegasus is considered one of the most powerful cyber-surveillance tools available on the market, giving operators the ability to effectively take full control of a target’s phone, download all data from the device, and activate its camera or microphone without the user knowing. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-on-reports-of-illicit-police-phone-hacking-a-dark-day-for-israel/> **[It appears that the dooo dooo has hit the fan now because the professional politician has been threatened. – rdb]**

**Amid spyware crisis, ministers approve Gali Baharav-Miara as new attorney general**

***Unanimously backed, ex-lawyer in Tel Aviv district attorney’s office will be first woman to hold top justice role, comes into post with low public profile, under intense scrutiny***

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/01/download-4.jpg)*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 4:48 pm*

***Gali Baharav-Miara. (Courtesy)***

**Ministers on Monday unanimously approved Gali Baharav-Miara as the next attorney general to replace Avichai Mandelbl**it.

**The relatively unknown former Tel Aviv district attorney for civil affairs** will be the nation’s first woman to take up the top justice role.

Baharav-Miara is currently an attorney with the Tel Aviv law firm Tadmor Levy & Co.

Mandelblit stepped down upon completion of his six-year term on January 31, and State Attorney Amit Aisman has been temporarily filling the role.

Last week, both Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Justice Minister Gideon Sa’ar expressed [support](https://www.timesofisrael.com/saar-taps-gali-baharav-miara-as-next-attorney-general/) for Baharav-Miara. In a statement, Sa’ar said that she had the strongest courtroom experience of the search committee’s candidates, and that she “argued more cases and wrote more summaries than any other candidate who appeared before the committee.” **MORE -** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-unanimously-approve-gali-baharav-miara-as-new-attorney-general/>

**Officials say two-thirds of students are not submitting home COVID test results**

***Health Ministry official calls statistic ‘disturbing,’ but Education Ministry official claims plan is working***

*By* [*Amy Spiro*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/amy-spiro/) *Today, 4:00 pm*

**During a Knesset hearing on Monday, a senior Health Ministry official expressed dismay that just 30 percent of parents are cooperating with an Education Ministry plan to submit schoolchildren to regular COVID tests after exempting them from quarantine following expos**ure.

**At a Knesset Health Committee hearing, Education Ministry director-general Dalit Stauber said that since the implementation of the plan — which went into effect on January 27 — just 600,000 children have been tested and had their results loaded into a portal** by their parents.

**Among those who tested and reported their results, said Stauber, around 60,000 were found to be po**sitive.

Health Ministry director of public health Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis said she **found the statistics “disturbing**.”

**“The government of Israel made a decision that a child who was near a positive case and did not get tested should be in quarantine,” said Alroy-Preis. “But we have no way to do this, because there is no real tracking**.”

A picture containing person, indoor

Description automatically generated Alroy-Preis said that “not only are only one-third of children getting tested, we also don’t know who is sick. The Education Ministry is not reporting it and the Health Ministry can’t enforce quarantine among those who aren’t tested.”

***Health Ministry director of public health Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis speaks at a Knesset Health Committee hearing in Jerusalem on February 7, 2022. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset)***

**Under the plan, all students, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, need to take two home antigen tests a week, on Sundays and Wednesdays**, and report their results to an Education Ministry portal.

**Children who test positive for COVID-19 at home need to take an antigen test at an official facility and isolate for five days** if that too shows a positive result. The terms of the plan exempt even unvaccinated students from being forced to quarantine after being exposed to a positive COVID case in class — as long as they administer home tests.

**But Alroy-Preis implied that even many of those students whose parents reported positive results of home tests to the Education Ministry were not necessarily following up** with official tests.

Still, Stauber defended the plan, saying that it was leading to fewer in-class cases and less COVID spread.

“Without these tests, these students would be continuing to go to class without anyone knowing they had been infected,” said Stauber, calling the plan an “extra protective layer.” [**Israel has created such an overwhelming bureaucratically intense plan that it can’t really be monitored unless you have an army of people for all the tracking and record keeping. – rdb]**

**Alroy-Preis claimed that the Health Ministry had asked the Education Ministry for information about students who had tested positive, while Stauber claimed that it received such information from the Health M**inistry, “not the opposite.”

A picture containing person, wall, person, music

Description automatically generated

***Education Ministry director-general Dalit Stauber at a Knesset Health Committee hearing in Jerusalem on February 7, 2022. (Noam Moskowitz/Knesset)***

**According to the latest Health Ministry statistics, as of Monday morning, there were close to 122,000 school-age children positive for COVID, and a further 12,772 in isolation following exposure**.

**While children ages 0-18 represented just 40% of all state-run COVID tests carried out on Sunday, they made up more than 51% of the positive res**ults. None of those figures included home testing.

Overall on Sunday, 52,600 people tested positive for COVID, with 323,911 current active cases in the country. Among those, 2,812 were hospital patients, with 1,235 of them in serious condition and 293 of those on ventilators.

More than 1 million Israelis have been tested in the past week, and the positivity rate on Sunday stood at 28.16%, while the R number continued to drop, hitting 0.84.

In just the past week, 284 people with COVID have died, with an average daily death toll of 40, dropping from a peak average of 51 several days ago, the highest in more than a year. The death toll since the start of the pandemic stood at 9,180. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/officials-say-two-thirds-of-students-are-not-submitting-home-covid-test-results/> **[So just how accurate and specifica are these tests? NOT! - RDB**

**Be'er Sheva teenager saves baby in distress during pizza delivery**

***Gilad Zargari was making a delivery around the southern city as usual but when he arrived at the listed address, he heard cries of terror coming from inside the house; his quick wit and resourcefulness saved the life of a 14-month-old child***

*Ilana Curiel | Published: 02.07.22, 17:47*

**Gilad Zargari is a high school student from Be'er Sheva who also works in pizza deliveries on weekends. Last Saturday, he went to make a delivery around the southern city, but when he arrived at the listed address, he heard cries of terror coming from inside the hou**se.

The **17-year-old, who also volunteers for the Magen David Adom (MDA) emergency service** in his spare time, realized immediately that something was amiss and knocked on the door.



***Gilad Zargari (Photo: Haim Horenstein)***

The door opened and Zargari was greeted by Ran — a young father who was visibly upset. Ran told him that his 14-month-old baby daughter was in serious distress.

**Zargari told the father he had medical training and the two went to the next room, where they found the mother holding her baby who was suffering from a severe seizure**.

As soon as he examined the child, Gilad realized that she was suffering from a very high fever that was endangering her life. The quick-witted teenager quickly wrapped her with a wet towel in order to cool her body and called an ambulance.

When first responders arrived at the scene, the girl's condition had already stabilized and she regained consciousness thanks to Gilad's prompt treatment. The medics said that Gilad's resourcefulness most probably saved the child from irreversible brain damage and even death.

The young parents told Ynet that they had completely forgotten about ordering pizza in the midst of the ensuing frenzy but were happy that when they opened the door, they had the pizza delivered to them "with life on top."

Gilad, who has been volunteering with MDA for a year, described the situation as one of the most unusual and moving ones he took part in.

"Life gives us opportunities to do good. I'm thankful I was there at the right time and for the privilege I was given to save a life," he told Ynet. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjj9fhr0t>  **[At least some happy ending stories still happen. – rdb]**

**Hospitals are not on the verge of collapse, coronavirus czar says**

***Prof. Zarka says healthcare system holding firm against surging COVID infections as severe cases see steady decline, adds morbidity could still bounce back due to new strain detected in Israel***

*Adir Yanko | Published: 02.07.22, 20:06*

**Israeli hospitals are not on the verge of collapse despite surging daily coronavirus cases and the discovery of a new strain within the country, the country's top pandemic official Prof. Salman Zarka told a media briefing M**onday.

**"I'm in touch with the hospitals and our excellent directors-general and we are not on the verge of collapse. Some hospitals do face higher workloads, but the healthcare system will continue to deliver,**" stressed Zarka, whose statement comes [amid a steady decline in severe COVID-19 cases](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/rkyzh8crf).

**Zarka added that about 700 cases of a new coronavirus sub-strain, known as BA.2, had been detect**ed in Israel in recent weeks.

**"Some carriers have contracted the virus within our border while others caught it abro**ad. We are currently monitoring the strain mainly in the UK and Denmark, where Omicron infections are going down," he said.

**"In Denmark, a new infection wave is ongoing while infections remain stable in the U**K. We are quite worried that the strain's spread will cause thousands of infections for a prolonged period."

 Zarka also warned Israelis of growing complacent and throwing caution to the wind as Omicron cases continue to decline but remain in the tens of thousands per day.

***Coronavirus czar Prof. Salman Zarka (Photo: GPO)***

**The coronavirus czar also urged groups at risk of developing severe COVID-19 illness — namely senior citizens and those with underlying health conditions —** to take a [fourth coronavirus vaccine dose](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/rj038sjay) to become [better protected against complications of the disease](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/hkjr00mipk).

He also lauded the government's decision [to drop compulsory isolation for students who came into contact with a confirmed coronavirus patient](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/hy24ifptt), saying that the new policy did not fuel a resurgence in infection in the education system while providing students with a much-needed learning continuum. **MORE -** <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/hy3sfa0rf> [**When you listen to some of the banter you would think the world was at an end. – rdb]**

**World 1st: Hope for paralyzed as Israeli lab spinal cords restore mice mobility**

***Tech got 12 out of 15 mice in study moving well; human trial expected in less than 3 years, aiming to ‘offer all paralyzed people hope that they may walk again’***

*By* [*Nathan Jeffay*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/nathan-jeffay/) *Today, 10:00 am*

**Israeli scientists have made paralyzed mice walk by giving them spinal cord implants, and say they are less than three years away from doing the same for humans in clinical tria**ls.

**The world-first experiment took place at Tel Aviv University, where a large team engineered spinal cord tissue from human cells, and implanted them into 15 mice with long-term paralysis. Twelve of the mice then walked normally**, the scientists revealed on Monday in newly peer-reviewed [research](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/advs.202105694) published in the journal Advanced Science.

**“If this works in humans, and we believe that it will, it can offer all paralyzed people hope that they may walk** again,” Prof. Tal Dvir’s research team at the Sagol Center for Regenerative Biotechnology told The Times of Israel, adding that discussions regarding clinical trials have been opened with America’s Food and Drug Administration.

**He said that while all his mice received spinal implants from cells of three people, if the innovation is deployed in humans, the plan is to grow a unique spine for each patient** using cells from their own body.

Dvir predicts this will “enable regeneration of the damaged tissue with no risk of rejection,” and it will eliminate the need to suppress the immune systems of recipients, as happens in the case of many transplants.

**“There are millions of people around the world who are paralyzed due to spinal injury, and there is still no effective treatment for their con**dition,” Dvir said.

“People injured at a very young age are destined to sit in a wheelchair for the rest of their lives, bearing all the social, financial, and health-related costs of paralysis. We hope to solve this and help them to walk.”

To date, some scientific teams have conducted experiments producing human-based stem cells and injecting them into the spinal cords of animals. **But Dvir said this is the first lab to grow pieces of actual spine engineered from human cells, and transplant** them.

A person in a lab coat

Description automatically generated with low confidence **Another unique factor in his research is its treatment of long-paralyzed animals, as the stem cell studies tend to have tended to limit themselves to newly paralyz**ed animals.

***Prof. Tal Dvir (courtesy of Tel Aviv University)***

“Realistically, most humans needing treatment will have been paralyzed for some time when treatment is wanted, so this is important,” said Dvir. “In our experiment, we used both newly paralyzed and long-paralyzed mice. We had success with both, and expect the impact to work with humans who have been paralyzed for different amounts of time.”

***Diagram

Description automatically generated*** *He added that while the success rate with his spinal cord was 80% for mice with chronic paralysis, among those with recent or short-term paralysis, 100% of mice walk****ed.***

***An illustration by Tel Aviv University researchers of how they expect to implement their spinal cord implants in humans (iStock via Getty Images)***

**Dvir said that the process starts with a small biopsy from** the belly.

**“We separate the fat cells from other materials such as collagen and sugars, and reprogram the cells using genetic engineering methods, so they can ‘become’ any cell in the body,” he explain**ed.

**“We put the cells in a substance that we make from the non-cellular material from the fat tissue gathered in the biopsy, put the cells inside it for 30 days, and we mimic how a spinal cord develops in an embryo. This produces spinal cord micro-neuron tissue**, which we transplant into animals that have been paralyzed for a long time.”

**Dvir said that a company, Matricelf, has been formed to bring the technology to clinical trial**s, and he expects this to happen within two and a half years. He stressed that while the experiment so far involved mice, the implants were grown from humans cells, meaning that the research is already at an advanced stage.

**“We’ve been using human implants on the mice, not mice implants, which means we’re not going back to the beginning of research to move over to hum**ans. Rather, we know how to prepare the implants for humans, which is what makes us optimistic we will move quickly to clinical trials,” he said.

His team, **which includes Lior Wertheim, Dr. Reuven Edri, and Dr. Yona Goldshmit, believes that the new method has relevance beyond spinal injury, and are now exploring using it for a range of other diseases and injuries, such as Parkinson’s disease, brain trauma, myocardial infarction, and age-related macular degeneration**. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-lab-made-spinal-cords-get-paralyzed-mice-walking-human-trial-in-3-years/>

**Teva, Texas strike opioid settlement worth $225 million**

***Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd was facing claims that they fueled an opioid epidemic in Texas by improperly marketing addictive pain medications.***

By REUTERS Published: FEBRUARY 7, 2022 18:18

**Teva Pharmaceuticl Industries, Ltd has reached a settlement worth $225 million to resolve claims the drugmaker fueled an** [**opioid**](https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/article-692577) **epidemic in Texas by improperly marketing addictive pain medications, the state's attorney general said on Monday**.

**Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said Teva agreed to pay $150 million over 15 years and provide** $75

**The deal is the largest Teva has struck in the more than 3,500 lawsuits it faces seeking to hold it and other drug companies responsible for an opioid abuse ep**idemic that led to hundreds of thousands of overdose deaths over the last two decades nationally.

**The Israeli drugmaker previously settled with Oklahoma and Louisiana. Teva did not admit wrongdoing as part of Monday's settlement**.

Teva has long sought to resolve the thousands of opioid lawsuits by state, counties and municipalities it faces, offering in 2019 to donate $23 billion in opioid addiction treatment drugs and pay $250 million over 10 years.

Attorneys general from four states, including Texas, negotiated that proposal with [Teva](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/california-judge-rules-for-israeli-teva-in-major-opioid-lawsuit-683775). But no nationwide settlement agreement ultimately resulted after lawyers for some of the plaintiffs questioned the true value of the drugs.

Kåre Schultz, Teva's chief executive, in a statement said it "remains in the best interest of Teva to put these cases behind us and continue to focus on the patients we serve every day."

The settlement came after a jury in a similar case by the state of New York and two counties in December found Teva liable over claims that it engaged in misleading marketing practices that fueled opioid addiction in the state.

A California judge a month earlier concluded Teva and three other drugmakers could not be held responsible for causing the epidemic in several large counties in that state.  <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-695781>

**PLO promotes Abbas loyalists to key posts at rare conference**

***With many of the PA president’s opponents boycotting, his close advisers Hussein Al-Sheikh and Muhammad Mustafa are handed top spots in pan-Palestinian organization***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 10:29 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/WafaImage-2.jpg)

***Senior Palestinian officials attend a rare Palestine Liberation Organization leadership conference on February 6, 2022. (WAFA)***

**The Palestine Liberation Organization promoted several officials close to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to its highest-ranking body, the Executive Committee, on Monday night**, official PA media reported.

**The appointments further consolidated Abbas’s control over the PLO, which critics say no longer represents a broad spectrum of the Palestinian public**. Abbas convened the PLO’s Central Council, the body empowered to fill the posts, in the first such meeting since 2018.

**Hussein al-Sheikh, once of Abbas’s closest advisers, took the Executive Committee seat vacated by the late former PLO chief negotiator Saeb Erek**at. Al-**Sheikh is one of the most powerful and controversial politicians in the West Bank, an**d is widely seen as one of the two officials closest to the aging Palestinian leader.

Erekat was widely known as the point person for peace talks and diplomatic initiatives with the US and Israel. Al-Sheikh is widely considered likely to assume the negotiations portfolio as well, but has yet to be formally appointed to the position.

**In addition, Abbas’s longtime chief economic adviser Mohammad Mustafa will fill the seat left by former PLO spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi**, who quit last year. Ramzi Khoury, whom Abbas appointed to manage the PLO’s coffers in 2005, was formally made a member of the Executive Committee.

**Rawhi Fattouh, another politician considered close to Abbas, was appointed to run the Palestinian National Council, another PLO bra**nch.

**Several Palestinian factions boycotted the proceedings, accusing Abbas of seeking to further consolidate power in the PLO by packing the body with loyalists**. Ashrawi, who has become a prominent Abbas critic, also condemned the conference, which she said would only “perpetuate stagnation.”

**For decades, the PLO was the standard-bearer of the Palestinian struggle for statehood. But the organization has been sidelined since the establishment in the mid-1990s of the Palestinian Authorit**y, which administers major Palestinian cities and towns in the West Bank.

[A person speaking into a microphone

Description automatically generated](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/08/6d289313-68be-4399-9fbf-47e4cebd8f4e.jpg)

***Palestinian Authority Civil Affairs Commissioner Hussein al-Sheikh. (WAFA)***

**Both the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror groups, which are not PLO members, condemned Abbas’s gathering**. Two prominent leftist factions within the PLO, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror group and the National Initiative, also boycotted the meeting.

**Abbas, 86, who also serves as PLO chairman, presides over a widely unpopular regime that critics have deemed increasingly autocrat**ic. Abbas has rock-bottom approval ratings; although his term ended in 2009, he has continued to rule by executive fiat.

**Though the aging Abbas has battled ill health, he has not appointed a clear successor.** Numerous contenders are seen as vying for the job, including al-Sheikh, exiled security chief Mohammad Dahlan, and Marwan Barghouti, a convicted terrorist serving multiple life sentences in Israeli prison.

**Palestinian national elections have not been held for over a decade and a half. A**bbas canceled a planned vote for the Palestinian legislature last April, blaming Israel. Surveys, however, showed that he would likely have been dealt an embarrassing loss to his rivals within his own Fatah party and Hamas had the elections gone forward. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/plo-promotes-abbas-loyalists-to-key-posts-at-rare-conference/>

**Russian names condition for talks on new nuclear deal**

***Moscow has positioned current security talks as vital to future nuclear agreements***

*7 Feb, 2022 16:52*

**The chances of clinching a major deal to reduce the risk of nuclear war will depend on current talks about NATO expansions and tensions in eastern Europe, a top Russian  official has** said.

**In an interview with RIA Novosti on Monday, Vladimir Yermakov, the director of arms control at the Russian Foreign Ministry, emphasized that it is difficult to make progress on nuclear non-proliferation before the two sides have found common ground on other secur**ity matters.

*“The question of* **legal security guarantees** *for our side, concerning the ‘critical mass’ of problems that has built up in Russian-Western relations, has become so urgent that it has pushed a whole array of other important items on the strategic agenda down to secondary importance,”* Yermakov explained.

**“Further dialogue with the Americans about strategic stability will depend in large part on how the questions concerning the security guarantees a***re decided,”* he went on. *“For now, there is no time-table for new meetings for strategic discussions.”*

**Yermakov also emphasized the importance of deals, including New START, a nuclear ar**ms reduction treaty signed by Russia and the US in 2010, which was extended last year and will last until 2026. The agreement replaced the Treaty of Moscow, which expired in 2012, and calls for halving the number of strategic nuclear missile launchers.

**Asked whether Russia fears that American elections and changes of power between the Democratic and Republican parties could lead to the US pulling out of a treaty like New START, Yermakov repli**ed, *“When it comes to questions of international security and strategic stability, we don’t orient ourselves at all to the US election cycle. We also have no desire to make a ‘schedule’ or artificial time limit for the negotiators. The only thing we need to pay attention to is the length of New START.”*

In 2018, then-President Donald Trump announced that he was withdrawing the US from the INF non-proliferation treaty, which had been signed between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987. Trump cited supposed Russian non-compliance and reports of arms buildup by China, not a party to the agreement, as the reasons for the withdrawal.

**American and European leaders have been warning for months that they fear Moscow could be planning an invasion of Ukraine in** the near future, and have pointed to reports of Russian troop buildup on the two nations’ border. Russia has consistently denied that it has aggressive intentions, arguing that it is only moving soldiers within its own territory, and has called for security guarantees that would limit the expansion of NATO, the US-led military bloc, into Ukraine or Georgia. Western officials have said that the terms of that deal are unacceptable. <https://www.rt.com/russia/548553-nuclear-agreements-kremlin-security-talks/>

**EU says Iran nuclear talks set to resume on Tuesday in Vienna**

***Russian diplomat says ‘negotiations seem to be at the final stage’***

*By* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *Today, 4:05 pm*

BERLIN, Germany — **Talks to revive Iran’s tattered 2015 nuclear deal with world powers are resuming on Tuesday after breaking off for a bit over a week for diplomats to return home for consultations**.

The European Union, which chairs the talks in Vienna, announced the resumption on Monday.

The United States pulled out of the Vienna accord in 2018 under then president Donald Trump and reimposed heavy sanctions on Iran. Tehran has responded by increasing the purity and amounts of uranium it enriches and stockpiles, in breach of the accord.

US President Joe Biden has signaled that he wants to rejoin the deal. Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China are still parties to the accord with Iran and have been trying to salvage it. **MORE -**  <https://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-says-iran-nuclear-talks-set-to-resume-on-tuesday-in-vienna/>

**Preventive Use of Ivermectin Reduced COVID Mortality by 90%, Study Found**

***A peer-reviewed study published last month found the prophylactic use of ivermectin reduced COVID mortality by 90% among more than 223,000 study participants in a town in Southern Brazil.***

*By* [*David Charbonneau, Ph.D.*](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/authors/david-charbonneau-ph-d/)  *02/07/22*

**A peer-reviewed** [**study**](https://www.cureus.com/articles/82162-ivermectin-prophylaxis-used-for-covid-19-a-citywide-prospective-observational-study-of-223128-subjects-using-propensity-score-matching) **published last month found the prophylactic use of ivermectin reduced** [**COVID**](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender_category/covid/) **mortality by 90% among more than 223,000 study participants in a town in Southern B**razil.

**The study, published in the Cureus Journal of Medical Science, also found a 44% reduction in COVID cases among those who took the re-purposed dr**ug.  
 Between **July 7, 2020, and Dec. 2, 2020, all residents of Itajaí were offered** [**ivermectin**](https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/ivermectin-big-pharma-rfk-jr-the-real-anthony-fauci/)**. Approximately 3.7% of ivermectin users contracted COVID during the trial period, compared with 6.6% of residents who didn’t** take the drug. **[I love the results BUT not sure if confounding factors were actually adequately taken into account. What were the numbers that took it and that didn’t take it. What was their compliance with a regime. Predisposing factors? Lots to consider in such a study.-rdb]**  
 Based on the results, Dr. Flavio Cadegiani, one of the study’s lead authors, [said](https://www.theepochtimes.com/new-study-on-ivermectin-should-convince-any-naysayer-dr-pierre-kory_4249502.html), “Ivermectin must be considered as an option, particularly during outbreaks.”  
 Dr. Pierre Kory [told The Epoch Times](https://www.theepochtimes.com/dr-pierre-kory-the-war-on-hydroxychloroquine-ivermectin-and-other-cheap-drugs-to-treat-covid-19_4245042.html) the results of the study “should convince any naysayer. What they found was astounding.”  
 Kory said:  
 “You **would think this would lead to major headlines everywhere. And yet, nothing. And this is not new, this censorship of this** highly effective science and evidence around repurposed drugs. The censoring of it, it’s not new, it’s just getting more and more absurd. And it has to stop.”  
 Kory **said it’s not even about ivermectin, “it’s about the pharmaceutical industry’s capture of our agencies and how our policies are all directed at suppressing and avoiding use of re-purposed drugs**” in favor of high-profit medicines.  
 As is common with studies that show ivermectin as an effective treatment for COVID, various “fact-checkers” were quick to discount the study.  
 A number of sources, including [Politifact](https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2022/jan/28/blog-posting/study-brazil-ivermectin-covid-19-prevention-flawed/), cited a long Twitter [thread](https://twitter.com/GidMK/status/1471320851156910083?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1471320851156910083%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fhealthfeedback.org%2Fclaimreview%2Fivermectin-study-itajai-contains-methodological-weaknesses-questionable-conclusions%2F) by an Australian graduate student in epidemiology, Gideon Meyerowitz-Katz, as evidence the study was “flawed.”  
 One **tweet called the study “a fairly simple example of observational research that you’d do on routine medical data” but alleged the controls for confounding factors** such as occupation and risk factors were “pretty inadequate given the purpose.”  
 Cadegiani called the criticism unfounded, saying researchers controlled for “all relevant factors,” including comorbidities, age, sex and race.  
 He said the inability of critics “to focus on the data provided by the study itself is … proof of the extreme high quality of the study.”  
 “To us, this is the best observational study on COVID-19 to date,” Cadegiani concluded, “with a power almost equivalent to a huge, randomized clinical trial.”  
 Cadeigiani and his colleagues also plan to publish further results about hospitalization rates based on the study. <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/preventive-ivermectin-reduced-covid-mortality>

**Joe Rogan receives $100mn offer amid Spotify row**

***Rumble CEO says he’s made a “totally legit” offer to Rogan to ditch Spotify amid censorship pressure***



***FILE PHOTO. Joe Rogan. © Getty Images / Jeff Bottari***

*7 Feb, 2022 17:34*

**Joe Rogan has been offered a $100 million deal to leave Spotify and take his podcast to Rumble, including all deleted episodes, the platform’s CEO Chris Pavlovski has announ**ced.

**“How about you bring all your shows to Rumble, both old and new, with no censorship, for 100 million bucks over four years? This is our chance to save the world. And yes, this is totally legit,” Pavlovski wrote in a letter to Rogan he** [**made public**](https://twitter.com/RT_com/status/1490724717908660229) **on M**onday.

**The offer came after the 54-year-old comedian and podcast host apologized for “racially insensitive language” used on some episodes of ‘The Joe Rogan Experience**’. More than 100 episodes have been taken down from Spotify’s archives, with CEO Daniel Ek claiming in a memo on Sunday that Rogan himself decided to remove 70 of them.

**Ek’s internal memo, which was leaked to the public, showed the CEO seemingly attempting to walk the tightrope between wanting to keep Rogan on the platform and the mounting pressure** – both internal and external – to censor him.

*“I do not believe that silencing Joe is the answer,”* Ek wrote, adding that while Spotify should obviously crack down on *“harmful”* content, *“canceling voices is a slippery slope.”*

**The $100 million figure matches the amount Spotify paid in 2020 to license Rogan’s full catalog of epi**sodes and become his podcast's exclusive home.

**Rogan was previously accused of spreading “misinformation” about the Covid-19 vaccin**es, after interviewing several scientists skeptical of the jabs – including mRNA developer Dr. Robert Malone. A number of other artists, from Neil Young and Joni Mitchell to ex-royals Harry Windsor and his wife Meghan, also threatened to pull their content from Spotify if it didn’t muzzle Rogan.

**Last week, the White House applauded Spotify putting a misinformati**on disclaimer on some of Rogan’s shows as *“a good step,”* adding *“there’s more that can be done.”* After that, a Democrat media outlet called MeidasTouch spread a compilation of clips in which Rogan says a racial slur. The video has prompted accusations of racism, even though Rogan insists he is not racist and was quoting someone else. It went viral over the weekend, prompting Rogan’s apology.

**Meanwhile, Pavlovski has been retweeting calls for Rogan to move over to Rum**ble, a free-speech platform originally set up to compete with Google’s YouTube.

The Florida-based platform has significantly expanded its reach and revenue since acquiring Locals last October, in a move Pavlovski said was *“building the rails to a new tech ecosystem that will free everyone from the restraints of editorial control.”* [*https://www.rt.com/news/548588-joe-rogan-spotify-rumble/*](https://www.rt.com/news/548588-joe-rogan-spotify-rumble/)

**'Traps in every question': U.S. Marines blast 'sham' religious vaccine-exemption process**

***The Pentagon 'intends to dismiss all of us'***

*By* [*WND News Services*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndnewsservices/) *Published February 6, 2022 at 5:12pm* ***By Jennie Taer****Daily Caller News Foundation*

The **COVID-19 vaccine exemption process in the Marine Corps gives no consideration to the faiths of individual soldiers and could hamper military readiness, according to Marines fighting the Pentagon’s vaccine** [mandate](https://dailycaller.com/2022/01/31/canada-ottawa-truckers-protest-covid-19-coronavirus-trudeau/) on religious grounds who spoke to the Daily Caller News Foundation anonymously out of fear of retribution.

**As of Friday, 95% of active duty members of the Marine Corps were fully vaccinated, and another 2% were partially vaccinated, Department of Defense (DOD) spokesperson Maj**. Charlie Dietz told the DCNF. A total of 334 Marines have been separated with a vaccine refusal discharge code. The Marine Corps has received 3,538 religious exemption requests, and only three were approved, out of 3,414 requests that were processed.

**The Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum on Aug. 24, requiring that all service members be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a matter of readiness**.

“To defend this Nation, we need a healthy and ready force. After careful consultation with medical experts and military leadership, and with the support of the President, I have determined that mandatory vaccination against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is necessary to protect the Force and defend the American people,” the memo stated. The Marine Corps issued its [mandate](https://www.marines.mil/News/Messages/Messages-Display/Article/2761259/mandatory-covid-19-vaccination-of-marine-corps-active-and-reserve-components/) on Sept. 1.

All current requests for religious exemptions, according to Dietz, are being reviewed on a “case-by-case basis” and are “given full consideration with respect to the facts and circumstances submitted in the request.”

**A 23-year Marine Corps officer went so far as to call the religious exemption process a “sham.”**

**Like many others, the officer’s religious exemption request was denied, as was her earlier medical exemptio**n request. The officer, who is now appealing the Marine Corp’s denial, told the DCNF she believes the Pentagon “intends to dismiss all of us.”

“When the appeals come back, and we know that they’re gonna come back denied, the guidance I’ve seen was that the individual’s supposed to receive a written order with enough time to comply, which they’re saying 30 days, 40 days, something like that,” she said. “And, at that time, if they’ve failed to comply, then they’re gonna get out-processed from the military. And, so far, I’ve started to see that take shape.”

**“For some of us, we’ve already been told, ‘hey, go do [a] transition readiness seminar,’ which is basically you have one foot out of the door, and also get your final physical**,” she added. “We’ve already been told to do that.”

The officer, who spends a lot of time speaking with a chaplain, said her chaplain was regretful over getting the shot.

“Sitting down with my chaplain was not an issue,” the officer said. “In fact, he had voiced to me his regrets for having gotten the shot, and he felt like he was spiritually dead. And I prayed with him actually, and prayed for him because of that.”

**‘*Anti-Mandate’ Marines***

**A 17-year Marine officer, who previously fought in combat and is also seeking the accommodation, said the religious exemption process from the start was stacked against service me**mbers.

**“At this point, because this mandate and betrayal that we’re facing, I’m not just gonna walk away with nothing that I’ve earned, but I’m likely walking away as a criminal and facing serious consequences** both within the military justice system as well as civil penalties, and things like that,” said the officer, who is close to receiving his full retirement.

**“I’m not necessarily anti-vaccine, but I’m very anti-mandate. I’m fighting this on religious** grounds,” he added. “Personally, I’ve got very strong, sincerely held beliefs and convictions that prevent me from participating in this, but I also see this as it’s an individual choice. If somebody wants to do that, that is their decision and it’s their right to make.”

The process, he said, is “complex and layered, to say the least.” When he met with a chaplain, another step in the accommodation vetting process, he felt the process was contentious.

**“It was not an interview, it was an interrogation,” he said. “You know, usually the chaplains are very supportive of you following your conscience, but in this case it was going as far as trying to look at my diet** and what products I have in my home. It was combative and there’s a lot of traps in every question to try to see if you know there was a flaw in my logic, so to speak … ”

**At every step of the vetting process, the officer said he was told by commanders to “just comply, this is not going to get approved anyway**.”

The officer’s request was subsequently denied, and he is now awaiting the fate of his appeal. He said the denials for every Marine have been identical.

**“It was word for word verbatim exactly the same denial letter that every other Marine has receiv**ed,” he said. “So, with the template notes and then the denial letter, my suspicion is that religious accommodation requests are supposed to be reviewed on a case by case basis on their own individual merits. That is not happening, and it is just a rubber stamp process to get to no in order to separate us.”

**The Marine is charged with helping maintain** [**military**](https://dailycaller.com/2021/10/08/coast-guard-vaccine-mandate-joe-biden-covid-coronavirus/) **retention, a job that has been key to keeping the Marine Corps experienced, capable and** ready, he said.

**“I am on internal Marine Corps videos where my face is used to keep Marines in the force, and, yet, here they are they can’t wait to separate me because I won’t bend the knee in political loyalty**. It’s a political loyalty test because of my religious convictions and doing the right thing, which I have been trained to do my entire career,” he said.

**In the meantime, the officer said he offered his early retirement, but expects the offer to be denied. If that’s the case, he said he will “start from ze**ro.”

**“I have no retirement in place, the GI bill benefits that I’ve earned and hope to pass on to my child will not be available either,” he said. “More importantly though, the choice is if I do not comply and if I separate, I will be separated via either a board of inquiry or a court martial**.”

“What that means … is I’m basically admitting fault, I’m admitting that I’m breaking the law and I’ll get off slightly lighter, or I could choose to not comply and it will go to a court martial, which is a federal criminal court, it holds that same weight,” he added. So, if I’m convicted, I will now be a federally convicted felon. All for standing firm in my religious beliefs.”

The officer said he’s fought the [mandate](https://dailycaller.com/2022/01/03/navy-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-religious-exemptions/) internally and also with the help of Republican California Rep. Darrell Issa.

“I’m from Texas and I’ve got a California Congressman fighting for me,” he said. “And I can’t thank him enough.”

***A Matter Of Morale***

**Issa, an Army veteran, who has received two doses and a booster of the Pfizer vaccine, told the DCNF that the mandate will likely affect the future of the military as a wh**ole.

**“You can’t replace morale,” Issa said. “We can find bodies. You saw the Democrats voting to expand reserve benefits, they will be expanding active duty benefits to try to bribe people to come into a demoralized m**ilitary. But, you know, pay does not create morale. No recruiting program takes the place of a seasoned veteran who’s motivated to train hard so we don’t have to fight the next war.”

“This issue is bigger than the men and women who are being dismissed. **This is a real question of Constitutional authority, both because of the tradition of these exemptions being ignored, but also because of what we know about the vaccines’ current variant**. It’s extremely important to understand that if you have the current variant against the current vaccine is ignoring to a great extent the vaccine. There’s a real question of why is the mandate in place against the current variant. And that’s even if you made the assumption that the mandate was necessary against the Delta variant, would it be medically justified? And it seems like there’s no willingness to consider that any more than there is a willingness to consider the exemptions for even one soldier, sailor, Marine, or airman.”

**Issa sent a** [**letter**](https://issa.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-issa-questions-marine-commandant-biden-vaccine-mandate) **to the Marine Corps Commandant on Jan. 17, demanding to know about the “recent purported approval of religious accommodations to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.” He’s also part of a group of Republican members of Congress that have** [**asked**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H0X-tODHS84dCnjRmjVPFZVI32euFpPd/view) **the House Appropriations Committee to prohibit funding to the military vaccine mandat**e.

The three Marines that were granted exemptions were already making their exits from the Corps, according to a Jan. 21 [letter](https://news.yahoo.com/3-religious-exemptions-granted-military-215852625.html) to Issa. In the letter, Deputy Legislative Assistant in the Marine Corps’ Office of Legislative Affairs J.J. Daly disclosed that “in two cases, the Marines are on terminal leave and in the other the Marine has transitioned into … a 180-day training program in private industry.”

**“Not one single Marine who wants to remain in the Corps has received a religious accommo**dation. It’s not a coincidence,” Issa spokesman Jonathan Wilcox told the DCNF.

A 17-year Marine Corps officer and combat veteran told the DCNF his request for a religious accommodation has not yet been denied. He said it could be because of the lengthy and complex process, or it could be because he’s separately involved in a federal lawsuit challenging the authorization of the vaccine. He said he expects it will eventually be denied.

“When the official submission was done, I had already done the chaplain interview. He determined that my faith and my beliefs were sincere and I then received negative command endorsements all the way up through the chain of command and then I stopped seeing visibility on it,” he said.

“The vast majority of the people, to include the people that gave me negative recommendations on my religious accommodation, have told me that that they believe in what I’m doing and they’re glad somebody’s standing up,” he explained.

Another 17-year Marine, who is a triple vaccinated and previously had a breakthrough COVID-19 infection, said that military readiness, the very reason the Pentagon put the mandate in place, is what’s at stake when the corps denies religious exemptions.

**“I can’t go out and buy another 17 year major, 18 year chief warrant officer,” he said. “You just can’t replace that experienc**e.”

**“The idea that ‘oh, we’ve gotta vaccinate everybody to protect the force’ is a lie because the stomach virus would be more debilitating to the combat power the force could project than** COVID would,” he added.

The mandate, he said, could do more harm than good to the force.

“I do think it gets to the point where you hurt recruiting, you hurt combat power, so eventually it has to come to that conversation to where you know maybe you do have to say ‘hey, look, this is hurting the force way more than it’s helping the force, it’s actually impacting how lethal we can be. To that point, it is a risk to force because now I’m getting rid of Marines that have all this experience and all these years.”

Wilcox added that the military, like it has before, should allow for the same process as any other religious accommodation process the military offers to servicemembers.

“All these Marines want is access to the same military process that accommodates Sikhs to wear turbans, Muslims to wear beards, and provides cash to buy meals due to dietary restrictions,” he said. “We got the Marines to admit that isn’t happening.”

“If the goal of the mandate was vaccination, it’s been a success. We don’t understand how the DOD can brag about a 98% vaccination rate and they seek to destroy everyone else. There has to be a better way,” he added.

**Wilcox concluded that he rejects the notion “that this is about President Biden’s power,” saying rather it’s “about his abuse of power.**” <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/traps-every-question-u-s-marines-blast-sham-religious-vaccine-exemption-process/> **[This is very long but also terribly disturbing.** **This is perhaps the most reprehensible displays of the military I have read yet. In essence this is subversion of our military preparedness from within by trying to dismantle the military of everyone that has any substantial corps values. You are stripping the middle level trained power and undermining the entire defense mechanism. That is traitorous behaviors and those in charge should be held accountable and convicted of being traitors -rdb]**

**Biden Admin To Fund Crack Pipe Distribution To Advance ‘Racial Equity’**

*$30 million program will provide 'smoking kits' to vulnerable communities*

**The Biden administration is set to fund the distribution of crack pipes to drug addicts as part of its plan to advance "racial equity."**

**The $30 million** [**grant program**](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/pdf/fy22-harm-reduction-nofo.pdf)**, which closed applications Monday and will begin in May, will provide funds to nonprofits and local governments to help make drug use safer for addicts.** Included in the grant, which is overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services, are funds for "smoking kits/supplies." A spokesman for the agency told the *Washington Free Beacon* that these kits will provide pipes for users to smoke crack cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, and "any illicit substance."

**HHS said the kits aim to reduce the risk of infection when smoking substances with glass pipes, which can lead to infections through cuts and sores.** Applicants for the grants are prioritized if they treat a majority of "underserved communities," including African Americans and "LGBTQ+ persons," as established under President Joe Biden's executive order on "advancing racial equity."

Democratic-run cities such as [San Francisco](https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-group-handing-out-free-crack-pipe-kits-expects-to-expand/) and [Seattle](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-drugs-seattle/largest-u-s-needle-exchange-tries-free-meth-pipes-in-seattle-idUSKBN0NZ11U20150514) have distributed smoking kits to residents. Some local governments, however, have in recent years backed away from their smoking kit programs over concerns they enable drug abuse. Louisville, Ky., for example, allowed convenience stores to sell smoking kits but later [banned](https://www.wave3.com/2019/02/27/crack-kits-still-being-sold-despite-law-change/) them. Legislators in Maryland ditched their distribution plan after facing backlash from local law enforcement and African-American leaders.

Sgt. Clyde Boatwright, president of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police, said government resources are better spent on preventing drug abuse rather than making it safer.

"If we look at more of a preventive campaign as opposed to an enabling campaign, I think it will offer an opportunity to have safer communities with fewer people who are dependable on these substances," Boatwright told the *Free Beacon*. **MORE -** <https://freebeacon.com/biden-administration/biden-admin-to-fund-crack-pipe-distribution-to-advance-racial-equity/> **My isn’t that just the most compassionate thing you ever saw. We get to pay for druggies pipes. Have you ever wondered how we ever got into the financial trash bin? This kind of stupidity is the answer. Constantly enabling behaviors that destroy society. – rdb]**

**Concealing $1.5 million payoff: Trump impeachment manager in trouble**

***'Used the system to enrich themselves'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 7, 2022 at 11:57am*



***U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., as House impeachment manager on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021. (C-SPAN video screenshot)***

**A federal ethics complaint was filed on Monday against a Democrat member of Congress for concealing his wife's $1.5 million payoff from a Colorado company – and it hits her too, as she is Joe Biden's nominee to the Federal Reserve.**

[**Fox Business**](https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/jamie-raskin-ethics-complaint-sarah-bloom-raskin-stock-payout) **reported American Accountability Foundation, a watchdog organization, filed the complaint against Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., a House impeachment manager against former President Donald Trump, over the money paid to his wife,** Sarah Bloom Raskin.

**The congressman allegedly violated the requirements that force members of Congress to reveal financial windfalls within a certain time** period.

**Bloom Raskin got the massive payout from Reserve Trust, for which she previously** worked.

It happened at the end of 2020, but her sale of nearly 196,000 shares wasn't reported until August of 2021, even though the Stop Trading on Congressional **Knowledge Act from 2012 requires that those details be reported within 45 day**s.

**"Sarah and Jamie Raskin are career politicians who have used the system to enrich themselves, and it is time that someone holds them accountable," Tom Jones**, the founder of the American Accountability Foundation, told FOX Business. "If House rules are going to mean anything, the House Ethics Committee needs to open an investigation and sanction Jamie Raskin for hiding this shady stock deal from the public."

The Raskins about that time were dealing with the death of their son, Thomas, and Raskin told Business Insider that the late filing happened "because" of their loss. [**Sorry but almost a year to report is unacceptable. Sorry for the loss of their son but there are necessities of life that do have to go on. 1.5 million is not peanuts. -rdb]**

**But the report pointed out that Raskin also was a key leader of the second of two failed impeach-and-remove schemes that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched against President** Trump.

The report **said, "While the complaint from the American Accountability Foundation conceded that the Raskins had lost their son during that time period and should be 'afford[ed] some latitude in meeting filing requirements,' it noted that the congressman quickly returned to his official duties in leading the impeachment charge against Trump**." **[Obviously everyone has their priorities and his was to destroy the country just like most of the demon-rats - rdb]**

**The complaint itself charged, "If Representative Raskin was able to perform these official duties during this time, it is reasonable to expect that he should have been able to comply with the Periodic Transaction Report requi**rements during these times and not frustrate the legitimate ends of congressional oversight by waiting nine months to disclose the sale."

**Bloom Raskin was nominated a month ago by Biden to be on the Federal Reserve, but she has faced opposition from Republicans who suggest her climate change activism actually could threaten the** Fed's independence.

She has claimed that banks need to evaluate their decisions to work with energy companies – and has insisted they should be campaigning for "sustainable" investments.

She has threatened those that do not comply with penalties.

Fox Business explained Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., probed Sarah Bloom Raskin over her connections to Reserve Trust recently. She wanted Bloom Raskin to explain whether she tried to influence a decision in favor of her former company at the Federal Reserve. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/concealing-1-5-million-payoff-trump-impeachment-manager-trouble/>

**'How to torture a Jew': Parent claims Bible-class teacher went too far**

***'My daughter felt extremely uncomfortable'***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published February 7, 2022 at 1:35pm*

**The** [**Bible in the Schools**](https://bibleintheschools.com/5/why-bible-history) **program has been around for decades, and teaches – even in public schools – how the Bible is quoted in thousands of pieces of literature, how it influenced Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and Handel's "Messiah," and even how it has been integral in American history** and founding documents.

**But now there are claims that one teacher in Tennessee used the classtime to indoctrinate students, even threatening Jews**.

The details come from [the Jerusalem Post,](https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-695704) which said the parent of a Jewish student had enrolled her in the class in Chattanooga, Tennessee, but is charging that the teacher "**advised students on 'how to torture a Jew**.'"

"Juniper Russo, in a post that was reposted on her wife's page after Facebook deleted the original post for 'hate speech,' wrote that she had been hesitant to enroll her daughter in the 'Bible in the Schools' elective program, although it was meant to teach the Bible from an unbiased and non-sectarian viewpoint as a literary document," the report said.

But she did because the daughter's disabilities created conflicts with other electives at the time.

**"According to the parent, the teacher of the "Bible in the Schools" program at East Hamilton Middle School, gave students a syllabus that included what she called 'incredibly abrasive' language and rules that would allow her to refuse to let children go to the restroom**," the report claimed.

Russo described the class as "Christian proselytizing," but said the situation reached a crisis point when **"The teacher 'wrote an English transliteration of the Hebrew name of God on the whiteboard.'"**

**Russo explained the name traditionally is not spoken alou**d.

**She charged the teacher then said, "If you want to know how to torture a Jew, make them say this out lo**ud." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/torture-jew-parent-claims-bible-class-teacher-went-far/> **[This is really bad. There are some lines that get bent but this one is just flat out crossed. Indoctrinating kids in such a way in front of other kids is cruel and inhumane treatment. The woman doesn’t belong in a classroom. – rdb]**

**And then you have….**

**'This made me throw up': Viral clip of wide-eyed 5-year-olds forced to march, chant for BLM**

*By* [*Elizabeth Stauffer, The Western Journal*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wj/) *Published February 7, 2022 at 3:04pm*

**In case you weren't aware, last week was "Black Lives Matter at School Week of A**ction."

**Apparently, this is now an annual event. According to** [**BLM's website**](https://www.blacklivesmatteratschool.com/resources.html)**, the organization devotes the first week of February, Black History Month, to activities that will "make our schools more racial**ly just."

The group provides a starter kit for newbies: "Everything you need to host your first Week of Action!"

Those who require guidance are encouraged to call on a BLM-trained "team of people from around the country ... to curate a variety of classroom resources for every age group all free of charge."

**The group's stated goal is "connecting the 13 Guiding Principles to year-long organizing and action**s for classrooms and communities."

Those [guiding principles](https://www.blacklivesmatteratschool.com/13-guiding-principles.html) are restorative justice, empathy, loving engagement, diversity, globalism, queer affirming, trans affirming, collective value, intergenerational, black families, black villages, unapologetically black, and black women. **[Considering the videos that were all over the media last year I don’t think that “Loving Engagement” is a part of their real agenda. It is more like killing engagement. – rdb]**

The Lowell School in Washington was among those celebrating [Black Lives Matter week](https://www.lowellschool.org/event-detail?pk=19417560&fromId=239559).

According to a post on Friday by Libs of Tik Tok, a Twitter account devoted to calling out wokeness, a kindergarten teacher at the private school in D.C. ended the week with a parade.

In a video posted to Instagram, her students were seen marching through the school carrying BLM signs they had made as they chanted "[Black Lives Matter](https://www.westernjournal.com/2022-candidate-condemns-black-lives-matter-terrorist-organization/)."

The caption on the school's post read “sound on to hear our pre-primary friends raise their voices.”

The Western Journal reached out to the Lowell School for comment but did not immediately receive a response.

If this little clip made you feel just a tad sick to your stomach, you're not alone.

Others were also disturbed by the scene of young children being indoctrinated into left-wing identity politics. **MORE -** <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/made-throw-viral-clip-wide-eyed-5-year-olds-forced-march-chant-blm-report/> **[This is obviously CRT indoctrination and needs to be banned. If there is one think the kids don’t need is indoctrination in racial divide and hate. – rdb]**

**Commentary:**

**Conservatives Need to Say Goodbye to GoFundMe**[*Jeff Crouere*](https://townhall.com/columnists/jeffcrouere/) *Posted: Feb 07, 2022 12:01 AM* Freedom loving people in the United States, Canada and worldwide need to learn a valuable lesson about the woke masters of the Internet. Most of these popular social media and crowdfunding sites need to be avoided like the plague.  
 For years, the leftists who control these platforms have clearly shown they do not believe in free speech and are obsessed with removing content from conservatives if it conflicts with the progressive agenda.  
 Whether the topic is the 2020 election or COVID-19, Internet censors are enthusiastic to remove content from conservatives on a variety of platforms. The same censorship does not apply to progressives.  
 In January of 2021, the message should have been clear that these sites are corrupt. When President Donald Trump was removed from Facebook, Twitter and other platforms, there should have been a stampede of conservatives away from the sites that show utter disgust for their movement.  
 Along with Trump, Twitter has also removed Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), talk show host Alex Jones, immunologist and virologist Dr. Robert Malone, businessman Mike Lindell, investigative reporter James O’Keefe and journalists such as Emerald Robinson and Alex Berenson among many others.  
 To make matters worse, while Trump was deleted, posts from Hollywood stars who threatened his life were not eliminated. These same sites also continued to allow content to be posted from radical Islamists who called for “Death to America.”  
 Unfortunately, too many conservatives continued to use these sites because of convenience or access to their friends or the desire to promote their content. They should have realized that these leftist sites usually shadow-ban or purposely limit the online reach of conservative content.  
 Fortunately, viable alternatives have developed to both Facebook and Twitter and all conservatives should be using a variety of platforms and not spending their time or money on sites that utterly despise their views.  
 Another site that should be avoided at all costs is the fundraising platform, GoFundMe. This was the site that the heroic Canadian truckers initially used to raise money for their “Freedom Convoy 2022.” Supporters flocked to the site to donate to this remarkable and courageous cause. In fact, $10 million was raised for the truckers.  
 At that point, left-wing Canadian politicians convinced the shady GoFundMe executives to shut down the fundraising campaign. Remarkably, GoFundMe then declared that the truckers would receive no money. Their donors would have to apply for a refund and other causes “verified” by GoFundMe would receive the balance.  
 This created a firestorm of controversy from aggravated donors and supporters of the truckers. It was so intense that the CEO of GoFundMe, Tim Cadogan, decided to lock down his Twitter account. Eventually, after undergoing massive criticism, GoFundMe elected to “simplify the process” and refund “all donations to the Freedom Convoy 2022 fundraiser. GoFundMe promised that the “refund will happen automatically” and that donors should “expect to see refunds within 7-10 business days.”  
 Of course, this belated move was unsatisfactory as the fundraising campaign should have never been stopped initially. This entire episode should be a wake-up call for every conservative to stop using GoFundMe for any fundraising campaign. It was so abusive that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and the Attorneys General of Florida, West Virginia, Missouri, and Ohio have vowed to investigate the site for potentially “deceptive advertising practices.”  
 This abuse hits home for it is exactly what happened to my wife and me when we organized a “Save America” rally in 2020. We decided to gather people from around Louisiana to protest the abusive COVID-19 lockdown and the mask mandate. The online fundraising started to gather strength and then GoFundMe received a complaint from a far-left activist and decided to shut down our campaign and would not give us access to the funds.  
 Our donors were forced to scramble and retrieve their money from the site and then find another way to support our rally. It was a major blow to our efforts to coordinate a successful rally. Fortunately, we organized a remarkably worthwhile event, but it cost us countless hours of additional work, thanks to the leftists at GoFundMe.  
 Today, there is a Christian alternative to GoFundMe. The site is called GiveSendGo, which allows donations to be received without bias or unfair interference from the site operators. By Sunday, a group supporting the Canadian truckers raised $3.5 million on GiveSendGo. Hopefully much more will pour in as their supporters discover this alternative site.  
 All freedom lovers need to realize their economic power. Not only must we stop buying products made in China that support the genocidal communist regime, but we also must stop supporting leftist online platforms that have declared war on the values we hold dear.  
 Thus, we must finally say goodbye to Facebook, Twitter, and GoFundMe among many other leftist sites. We must stop spending our valuable time and money on these sites and profiting those who use the funds to promote progressive and socialist causes, like Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.  
 This type of movement has already started. In their last quarterly financial report, Facebook’s parent company, Meta, reported a loss of users for the first time in their eighteen-year history. Approximately [500,000](https://www.forbes.com/sites/roberthart/2022/02/03/facebook-loses-daily-active-users-for-the-first-time--heres-where-theyre-going/?sh=4204829d1e6d) daily users abandoned Facebook in this period. While Facebook cited the growth of the short video site Tik Tok as the primary cause for this loss, there is no doubt that some conservatives are leaving the site in search of more Internet freedom and less censorship.  
 The loss of users and the declining profits led Meta’s stock to plummet [26%](https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2022/02/03/facebook-zuckerberg-retirement-funds/6654000001/) on Thursday, leading to a loss of [$230 billion](https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2022/02/03/facebook-zuckerberg-retirement-funds/6654000001/), the largest one-day plunge of any stock in U.S. history, according to the*Wall Street Journal*.  
 The movement away from GoFundMe, Facebook and other leftwing social media sites must continue and, in fact, accelerate in the future. It is high time that free speech advocates in the United States, Canada and worldwide declare war on Internet censorship and use their economic power to buttress their growing political power.  <https://townhall.com/columnists/jeffcrouere/2022/02/07/conservatives-need-to-say-goodbye-to-gofundme-n2602913>

**Propaganda and Fear Turns Free People into Bugs**[*Will Alexander*](https://townhall.com/columnists/willalexander/) *Posted: Feb 07, 2022 6:41 AM* Democrats and leftists are using propaganda and fear about COVID, climate change, cancel culture, crime, and color so effectively that many no longer need new laws, mandates, or threats to fall in line.    
 They’re being trained like elephants and fleas to act like processionary caterpillars.  
 Elephants can grow to 13 feet tall, weigh up to seven tons, and their trunks alone are packed with 40,000 muscles (the human body has 600).  But if you train an elephant early enough, it can be conditioned to believe that a flimsy rope tied around its leg to a stake in the ground is unbreakable.    
 Fleas are wingless insects with powerful hind legs that can [jump](https://insectcop.net/how-do-fleas-jump/#:~:text=The%20average%20height%20of%20a%20flea%20jump%20varies,travel%20up%20to%2050%20cm%20in%20one%20leap.) up to 150 times their body length. If you put them [in a jar](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=how+to+train+a+flee&&view=detail&mid=7029E063D5814F268F5D7029E063D5814F268F5D&rvsmid=F29A5373FE5FB8FFD9DBF29A5373FE5FB8FFD9DB&FORM=VDQVAP) and screw a lid on, they’ll bang their heads against the lid over and over again to escape.  But after three days, the head-banging stops and they’ll only jump to just below the level of the lid.  That’s the sign that their wills are broken.  Even when you remove the lid, fleas capable of jumping 150 times their body length never attempt to escape the jar *for the rest of their lives.*  
 Worse, if they reproduce in the jar, their offspring – masterful jumpers by nature – will never jump above the level of the lid.  Three days is all it takes to make a flea believe that escape is impossible.    
 Prolonged deception trains elephants and fleas – powerful by nature – to act like processionary caterpillars which, by nature, is one of Earth’s most slavish bugs.    
 French entomologist [Jean-Henri Casimir Fabre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Henri_Fabre) (1823-1915) wanted to test just how sheep-like these critters could be. He arranged the caterpillars around the lip of a flowerpot until they followed each other in an unbroken circle, then he put their favorite food close enough for them to pick up the scent.  Fabre watched for hours, then days, then a week as caterpillars dropped dead from exhaustion and starvation, with food just inches away.      
 “The caterpillars, in distress, starved, shelterless, chilled with cold at night, cling obstinately to the silk ribbon covered hundreds of times, because they lack the rudimentary glimmers of reason which would advise them to abandon it,” Fabre wrote in [*The Life of the Caterpillar*.](http://www.ibiblio.org/eldritch/jhf/c03.html) “The ordeal of a five hundred yards’ march and three to four hundred turns teach them nothing.”    
 Sound familiar?  
 The ordeal of seeing America destroyed, especially over the past two years, has taught processionary Democrats nothing.  Despite the suffering caused by their repressive COVID response, defunding the police, institutionalizing a systemic black supremacy post-George Floyd, criminalizing political differences, weaponizing cancel culture, and deliberately facilitating the flow of millions of illegals across our borders – Democrats and leftists still cling obstinately to policies that are literally destroying people’s lives.  
 Worse, through propaganda and fear, Americans have been conditioned either to freely participate in the dismantling, to sit back and watch, or to just “tune out” altogether as institutions crumble.  And as horrendous and dumb as Democrat-leftist propaganda is, it’s been effective because they keep it simple and the same tired slogans are repeated day-in and day-out, year after year by the leftist media, ignorant celebrities, pathological politicians, and left-leaning activists.  
 “You’re a white supremacist.” "You’re homophobic.” “You’re Islamophobic.” “My body, my choice.”  “Black Lives Matter.”  “Defund the police.”  “America was founded on racism.”  “Men can get pregnant.”  “You’re a climate change denier.”  “This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated.”  “Climate change is an existential threat.”  “Voter ID is voter suppression.”  “No justice, no peace.” “Stay at home; save lives.”   “It’s time for infrastructure equity.”     
 Knowingly or not, they’ve followed the playbook of Joseph Goebbels himself, chief propagandist of the Nazi Party.  Here’s what he said about propaganda which explains in part how, over time, even the freest people who ever lived, can be deeply manipulated:  
 - “Propaganda works best when those who are being manipulated are confident they are acting on their own free will.”  
 - “This is the secret of propaganda: Those who are to be persuaded by it should be completely immersed in the ideas of the propaganda, without ever noticing that they are being immersed in it.”  
 - “...the rank and file are usually much more primitive than we imagine. Propaganda must therefore always be essentially simple and repetitious.”  
 - “The most brilliant propagandist technique will yield no success unless one fundamental principle is borne in mind constantly – it must confine itself to a few points and repeat them over and over.”  
 - “Think of the press as a great keyboard on which the government can play.”  
 - “That propaganda is good which leads to success, and that is bad which fails to achieve the desired result. It is not propaganda’s task to be intelligent; its task is to lead to success.”  
 The slavish behavior toward overtly ridiculous policies can also be explained by the “[Asch Conformity Experiment](https://m.youtube.com/watch?t=0h1m34s&v=qA-gbpt7Ts8),” first conducted in the late ‘50s by gestalt psychologist Solomon Asch.  The experiment demonstrated how quickly people will deny what they see with their own eyes and yield to group pressure.  They yielded for two reasons: 1) They genuinely believed that the group knew better and, 2) They wanted to avoid the pain of being social outcasts.    
 Social psychologist Stanley Milgram took the Asch Conformity Experiment even further.  A Jew, he wanted to account for group behavior that justified the butchery of the Holocaust.  He [conducted tests](https://www.simplypsychology.org/milgram.html) to see whether ordinary people would use shock to inflict pain on innocent people at the behest of an authority who told them it was for the greater good.  
 “The ordinary person who shocked the victim did so out of a sense of obligation,” [Milgram wrote in 1974](https://www.degruyter.com/downloadpdf/j/auk.1998.20.issue-1/auk-1998-0103/auk-1998-0103.pdf).  “With numbing regularity, good people were seen to knuckle under to the demands of authority and perform actions that were callous and severe.  Men who are in everyday life responsible and decent were seduced by the trappings of authority, by the control of their perceptions, and by the uncritical acceptance of the experimenter’s definition of the situation into performing harsh acts.”  
 As shocked as we are at how quickly America has deteriorated, it’s time for patriots to snap out of it.   This is not an experiment.  We are not elephants or bugs.  Laws are openly being broken at every level of government, and real people have suffered, lost their livelihoods, and their lives.  Unprecedented propaganda and fear are being used to paralyze people who would otherwise take action against truly dangerous and tyrannical policies.         
 Eventually, even some of Fabre’s caterpillars broke away to feast on pine needles and find their way home.   But not before suffering exhaustion, cold and near-starvation after circling the pot 335 times for 84 hours.  
 There are signs that Americans have had enough of the division, fear, suffering, and propaganda.   Because leftist policies are doomed to fail – as history has clearly shown – it’s only a matter of time when the America we all know will break away and find its way back home.  <https://townhall.com/columnists/willalexander/2022/02/07/propaganda-and-fear-turns-free-people-into-bugs-n2602918>

**Nuremberg Code and the COVID-19 “Vaccines”***By* [*Paul Engel*](https://newswithviews.com/author/paulengel/)*|February 7th, 2022* How are the Emergency Use Authorization laws being manipulated in order to promote “vaccines” that are not legally vaccines?  
 What is the role of medical ethics in the ongoing push for “vaccine” mandates?  
 What is informed consent and why is it so important?  
 Many of you may be wondering what medical ethics has to do with the Constitution. Many who’ve been following what’s been going on with the COVID-19 “vaccine” and related mandates have asked me about the Nuremberg Code. While this set of medical ethics is not law in the United States, it does support the rights protected by the Constitution. Understanding this code, and how the Constitution protects your rights, is paramount if liberty and freedom are to survive the attack they are under by enemies both governmental and societal.  
 On December 9, 1946, criminal proceeding against 23 German physicians and administrators were heard by an American military tribunal. They were charged with willingly participating in crimes against humanity, specifically for medical experiments conducted on human beings. In the tribunals’ August 19th verdict, they produced ten points entitled *Permissible Medical Experiments*, which became known as *The Nuremberg Code*.  
 **The Nuremberg Code**  
 During the Nazi regime in Germany, people were the subjects of medical experiments. Some claimed that it was the only way to study certain things, and that the good to society outweighed the pain, suffering, and loss suffered by the subjects. Others looked at both the forced subjection to experimentation and the horrendous treatment of some of the subjects and vehemently disagreed. The tribunal, after looking at the evidence presented to it, determined there must be a way to reap the benefits of human experimentation without the cruel and horrific treatment of the test subjects. Enter *The Nuremberg Code*.  
 *The great weight of the evidence before us is to the effect that certain types of medical experiments on human beings, when kept within reasonably well-defined bounds, conform to the ethics of the medical profession generally. The protagonists of the practice of human experimentation justify their views on the basis that such experiments yield results for the good of society that are unprocurable by other methods or means of study. All agree, however, that certain basic principles must be observed in order to satisfy moral, ethical and legal concepts:*  
 [**Permissible Medical Experiments**](https://constitutionstudy.com/U.S.%20G.P.O,%201949%E2%80%931953.)  
 How could the medical community gather the data it needs while still respecting the rights of their potential test subjects? The first, largest, and most important point of *The Nuremberg Code* is the idea of informed consent.  
 *The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.*  
 *This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, over-reaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision.*  
 [**Permissible Medical Experiments**](https://constitutionstudy.com/U.S.%20G.P.O,%201949%E2%80%931953.)  
 It’s absolutely essential that the subject not only consent to participate in the experiment, but that consent must be both voluntary and informed. One of the most horrific aspects of Nazi medical experiments was the forced participation of those considered Lebensunwerten Lebens (Life Unworthy of Life). To prevent that, *The Nuremberg Code* requires that the subject have both the legal capacity to give consent and the freedom of choice. Force, fraud, deceit, and duress are expressly forbidden. Furthermore, that consent must be not only free, but informed. The subject must be made aware of, and able to comprehend, both the risks and rewards of participating in the experiment. This was expounded on as the first point went on.  
 *This latter element requires that before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject there should be made known to him the nature, duration, and purpose of the experiment; the method and means by which it is to be conducted; all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment.*  
 [**Permissible Medical Experiments**](https://constitutionstudy.com/U.S.%20G.P.O,%201949%E2%80%931953.)  
 Before becoming a test subject, a person must be made aware of the nature, duration, and purpose of the experiment. They must also be told all of the risks they can reasonably expect, not only upon their health, but upon their person as well.  
 The first point of *The Nuremberg Code* goes on to identify who is responsible for making sure the subject has provided informed consent.  
 *The duty and responsibility for ascertaining the quality of the consent rests upon each individual who initiates, directs or engages in the experiment. It is a personal duty and responsibility which may not be delegated to another with impunity.*  
 [**Permissible Medical Experiments**](https://constitutionstudy.com/U.S.%20G.P.O,%201949%E2%80%931953.)  
 It’s not the responsibility of the subject to track down all of this data, but of those who initiate, direct, or engage in the experiment. This means that everyone from the person who initiates the experiment to the person administering the product is responsible for insuring that the consent is both informed and voluntary. Notice that this is a personal responsibility, not something that can be pawned off onto someone else.  
 So what does The Nuremberg Code have to do with COVID-19 “vaccines”? The answer starts with how the “vaccines” were made available in the first place.  
 **Emergency Use Authorization**  
 The first thing we need to remember is that all of the COVID-19 “vaccines” available in the United States fall under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).  
 ***(a) In general  
(1) Emergency uses*** *Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter and section 351 of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 262], and subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary may authorize the introduction into interstate commerce, during the effective period of a declaration under subsection (b), of a drug, device, or biological product intended for use in an actual or potential emergency (referred to in this section as an “emergency use”).*  
 [**21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3**](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:21%20section:360bbb-3%20edition:prelim)%20OR%20(granuleid:USC-prelim-title21-section360bbb-3)&f=treesort&num=0&edition=prelim)  
 The idea is simple. In an emergency, the government will allow a drug, device, or biological product to enter the market before completing the regular approval process, which usually takes years. Certain conditions must exist before such an authorization can be legally issued. Let’s take a look at them one by one in relation to COVID-19  
 *(c) Criteria for issuance of authorization  
The Secretary may issue an authorization under this section with respect to the emergency use of a product only if, after consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (to the extent feasible and appropriate given the applicable circumstances described in subsection (b)(1)), the Secretary concludes-  
(1) that an agent referred to in a declaration under subsection (b) can cause a serious or life-threatening disease or condition;*  
 [**21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3**](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:21%20section:360bbb-3%20edition:prelim)%20OR%20(granuleid:USC-prelim-title21-section360bbb-3)&f=treesort&num=0&edition=prelim)  
 Is COVID-19 a serious or life-threatening disease? There is evidence that the initial variants of the disease could be serious enough to require hospitalization and even cause death. However, in August of 2020 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a report stating that 94% of the COVID deaths they were reporting involved more that just COVID. Using the data available by January 16, 2022, those 94% of deaths certificates listed an average of four additional causes of death. Which brings into question, how many of the over 800,000 deaths the CDC is reporting are people who died with COVID, not of it? As of the writing of this article, the CDC is reporting 862,494 total deaths. If less than 6% of those death certificates list only COVID as the cause of deaths, that means we are only sure that about 52,000 were caused by COVID, or about .015% of the U.S. population.  
 *(2) that, based on the totality of scientific evidence available to the Secretary, including data from adequate and well-controlled clinical trials, if available, it is reasonable to believe that-  
(A) the product may be effective in diagnosing, treating, or preventing-  
(i) such disease or condition; or  
(ii) a serious or life-threatening disease or condition caused by a product authorized under this section, approved or cleared under this chapter, or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 262], for diagnosing, treating, or preventing such a disease or condition caused by such an agent; and*  
 *(B) the known and potential benefits of the product, when used to diagnose, prevent, or treat such disease or condition, outweigh the known and potential risks of the product, taking into consideration the material threat posed by the agent or agents identified in a declaration under subsection (b)(1)(D), if applicable;*  
 [**21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3**](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:21%20section:360bbb-3%20edition:prelim)%20OR%20(granuleid:USC-prelim-title21-section360bbb-3)&f=treesort&num=0&edition=prelim)  
 Based on the totality of scientific data, do the COVID “vaccines” diagnose, treat, or prevent the disease? While there was much hype about the effectiveness of these “vaccines” when they were first released, that bubble has well and truly burst. Well-controlled clinical trials, along with other studies, have shown that the effectiveness of these “vaccines” is short-lived at best, ranging between 2-6 months. Studies have shown that those who have received the “vaccine” can not only get COVID, but when they do they can spread it at least as easily as the “unvaccinated”. So not only do the “vaccines” not treat COVID, they neither prevent infection nor transmission. In other words, the “vaccines” are a private health concern, not a public one.  
 *(3) that there is no adequate, approved, and available alternative to the product for diagnosing, preventing, or treating such disease or condition;*  
 [**21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3**](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:21%20section:360bbb-3%20edition:prelim)%20OR%20(granuleid:USC-prelim-title21-section360bbb-3)&f=treesort&num=0&edition=prelim)  
 The evidence that existing approved medications were capable of treating COVID-19 has been around for more than a year. However, the same government bureaucracy that has been promoting these “vaccines” has conveniently not only failed to approve these products for treatment of COVID-19, they have lied about the evidence for their effectiveness.  
 *(4) in the case of a determination described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii), that the request for emergency use is made by the Secretary of Defense; and*  
 *(5) that such other criteria as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe are satisfied.*  
 [**21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3**](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:21%20section:360bbb-3%20edition:prelim)%20OR%20(granuleid:USC-prelim-title21-section360bbb-3)&f=treesort&num=0&edition=prelim)  
 These last two are not really an issue currently with COVID-19.  
 So what does this have to do with *The Nuremberg Code*? As I stated before, all of the “vaccines” currently available in the U.S. are NOT Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved; they are issued under an EUA. That means, according to the law, they are either unapproved or conditionally approved.  
 ***(2) Approval status of product****An authorization under paragraph (1) may authorize an emergency use of a product that-  
(A) is not approved, licensed, or cleared for commercial distribution under section 355, 360(k), 360b, or 360e of this title or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 262] or conditionally approved under section 360ccc of this title (referred to in this section as an “unapproved product”); or  
(B) is approved, conditionally approved under section 360ccc of this title, licensed, or cleared under such a provision, but which use is not under such provision an approved, conditionally approved under section 360ccc of this title, licensed, or cleared use of the product (referred to in this section as an “unapproved use of an approved product”).*  
 [**21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3**](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:21%20section:360bbb-3%20edition:prelim)%20OR%20(granuleid:USC-prelim-title21-section360bbb-3)&f=treesort&num=0&edition=prelim)  
 It’s not only the “vaccines” that are being distributed under an EUA, because the [COVID-19 RT-PCR test](https://www.fda.gov/media/136151/download) is as well. I’m sure some of you are screaming that “The FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine!” Well, yes and no. You see the FDA gave approval for the Comirnaty brand of the Pfizer-BioNTech “vaccine”, but Pfizer has refused to distribute that particular version in the United States. Furthermore, the FDA required, in their approval letter, that BioNTech conduct no less than six additional studies because they could not assess the risks of myocarditis and pericarditis from the data that had already been submitted.  
 Not only are the COVID-19 “vaccines” only available in the U.S. under an EUA, but both the Pfizer and Moderna products are based on a new technology, mRNA, which has never been tested in humans before, and is not even legally a vaccine.  
 *A preparation of a weakened or killed pathogen, such as a bacterium or virus, or of a portion of the pathogen’s structure, that is administered to prevent or treat infection by the pathogen and that functions by stimulating the production of an immune response.*  
 [**American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language**](https://www.thefreedictionary.com/vaccine)  
 Even a recent article from the [National Institutes of Health (NIH) refers to these mRNA “vaccines” as experimental.](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/experimental-coronavirus-vaccine-highly-effective) So even if you haven’t taken a COVID-19 “vaccine”, you are participating in a medical experiment if you’ve had an PCR test.  
 We’ve looked at the law and *The Nuremberg Code*, but what does all of this have to do with the Constitution?  
 **Liberty, Property, and Informed Consent**  
 *No person shall … be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; …*  
 [**Amendment V**](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript#toc-amendment-v)  
 Your right to liberty and property go hand and hand with informed consent. I have been saying since the first mask mandates were issued, that these violated the Constitution because they denied you of the right to live at liberty without following due process (a process designed to protect the rights of the individual). Also, they violate your right to the property you have in your own body. These mask mandates though are nothing when compared to the infringement of these rights that “vaccine” mandates impose. Masks are not human medical experimentation. COVID-19 “vaccines” are.  
 *The Nuremberg Code* requires that, before you participate in a medical experiment, you must provide informed consent. Looked at another way, your right to liberty and the property you have in your body means you cannot be asked to participate in a medical experiment without informed consent. Have the American people been given the legal capacity to give informed consent when it comes to COVID-19 “vaccines”? Let’s go back to *The Nuremberg Code* and break informed consent down step by step.  
 *This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent;*  
 [**Permissible Medical Experiments**](https://constitutionstudy.com/U.S.%20G.P.O,%201949%E2%80%931953.)  
 Throughout most of the states, the age at which a person can legally give consent is around 18 years of age. Now we are seeing the medical community push for minors to be allowed to consent to receive these “vaccines”. The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published an [article in July, 2021](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2782024) recommending “a policy allowing minors to receive the vaccine without parental consent would use a sliding scale of decision-making authority”. In short, they want a policy that allows children to participate in a medical experiment without the legal capacity to give consent.  
 *should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, over-reaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion;*  
 [**Permissible Medical Experiments**](https://constitutionstudy.com/U.S.%20G.P.O,%201949%E2%80%931953.)  
 It seems almost daily I hear of another group being pressured to participate in this medical experiment. From cities and states requiring proof of “vaccination” to participate in society, to government regulations requiring employers institute mandates for their employees, the push is on to get everyone to be part of this experiment. This, however, is not the free power of choice. These mandates are coercion, duress, and an over-reaching exercise of powers. Given the data from the CDC about the safety and efficacy of these “vaccines”, I would say this push to vaccinate amounts to fraud. Add to that the work of media, social media, and celebrities, to declare anyone questioning the efficacy or dangers of these “vaccines” as “anti-vaxers” or distributing “medical misinformation”, you have deceit on an international scale.  
 *and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision.*  
 [**Permissible Medical Experiments**](https://constitutionstudy.com/U.S.%20G.P.O,%201949%E2%80%931953.)  
 How can the American people have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of these vaccines when the FDA refuses to let their safety data be independently reviewed? How can the American people provide an informed consent when everyone from social media to the CDC, from networks to the FDA, and from celebrities to the White House, label anything contrary to the approved narrative as “medical misinformation”? There can be no true knowledge about the “vaccines” when those who are expected to share information instead hide what they disagree with.  
 **Conclusion**  
 All of this comes just from the first point of *The Nuremberg Code*. I do not have time to go into the other nine points. Perhaps I will in a future article. What I have shown is not only that those in government, entertainment, academia, business, and everyday citizens at all levels have been promoting a vast medical experiment, not only on Americans, but on people worldwide. People from bureaucrats to doctors, nurses, and volunteers have been violating the medical ethics contained in *The Nuremberg Code*, the laws of the United States and, most likely, the laws of your state as well.  
 There are a group of people for whom the phrase “Never Again” has special meaning. We were supposed to have learned our lesson from the Nazis. Lessons about the dangers of rhetoric without evidence, of emotion over reason, of treating groups of people as sub-human. We were supposed to have learned the dangers of unrestrained power and a lack of ethics. We were supposed to have learned of the horrible consequences of human medical experimentation.  
 I guess we have not learned from our history. Which means Santayana was right: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” <https://newswithviews.com/nuremberg-code-and-the-covid-19-vaccines/>   
   
**The Origin of Covid-19—Updated, Part 13***By* [*Dr. Dennis Cuddy*](https://newswithviews.com/author/dennis/)*|February 7th, 2022* In Part 12 of my series, I referred to an analysis by Marine Corps Major Joseph Murphy. Similarly, there is an analysis by Lt. Col. Dany Shoham and Brig. Gen. Yossi Kuperwasser titled “The U.S. intelligence community and the roots of the pandemic virus” (JOURNAL ON CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, July-December 2021), which concludes as follows: “It was recently disclosed that the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) together with EcoHealth Alliance intended to artificially incorporate human-specific furin cleavage sites into an unspecified SARS-related bat virus, transform it into a dispersible aerosolic form, and spray it in the Mojiang mine, so as to experimentally vaccinate bats residing therein. A pertinent research proposal asking for funding was submitted in 2018 to the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) and rejected, due to being hazardous, as explained: ‘It is clear that the proposed project…could have put local communities at risk.’ But this does not mean it has not been carried out by WIV. The collaboration with EcoHealth and, alongside, the corollary joint research proposal (looking for more than a U.S.$14 million grant) were highly desirable for WIV—in various senses meeting one common Chinese optimal modus operandi, which combines such peculiarity with legitimacy, finance, sophisticated know-how, upgraded constituents, and scientific spying—yet not a necessity. WIV could well have carried out this research project, hence, on its own, eventually, and into 2019. The uncanny experimental layout of that research proposal, overall, is noticeably suspicious and obviously consistent with the lab-leak scenario. Surprisingly or not, this basically unclassified research proposal has been leaked by an anonymous whistleblower in September 2021. Much earlier, already in 2018, it should have been regarded to be a meaningful warning signal, if not a concrete alert. Surprisingly or not, additionally, this highly intriguing affair has not been mentioned at all in the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence’s (ODNI’s) unclassified documents. Dr. David Asher, who officially and thoroughly inquired into the roots of the pandemic virus, was critical and direct in reference to the ODNI’s October document at large: ‘Personally, I find it startling and almost a disgrace to the nation’s intelligence or the international intelligence.'”  
 Concerning how Drs. Fauci and Collins handled the matter of a possible lab leak origin of Covid-19 at the beginning of the pandemic, in Timothy Nerozzi’s Fox News (January 28) report, “US scientists who downplayed COVID-19 lab leak origins theory sang a different tune in private, emails show, ” the author wrote that “some experts may have consciously chosen to suppress evidence that could fuel ‘conspiracists’.” He reported that in a February 2020, meeting Dr. Robert Garry from Tulane’s School of Medicine said: “I really can’t think of a plausible natural scenario where you get from the bat virus…to nCoV where you insert exactly 4 amino acids 12 nucleotide that all have to be added at the exact time to gain this function. I just can’t figure out how this gets accomplished in nature.” Dr. Garry also added: “Don’t mention a lab origin, as that will just add fuel to the conspiricists.” Nerozzi further indicated that Dr. Kristian Anderson, a prominent virologist at the Scripps lab, told Fauci Jan. 31, 2020, that ‘the genome is inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory,’ an observation that points to synthetic manufacturing.” Toward the end of the meeting, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins stated that “a swift convening of experts in a confidence inspiring framework is needed, or the voices of conspiracy will quickly dominate.” Collins wrote to Fauci, “Wondering is there something NIH can do to put down this very destructive conspiracy.” And toward the end of his report, Nerozzi revealed that “on the guidance of world virology experts, Facebook actively suppressed reporting on the lab leak theory, utilizing ‘false information’ warnings and listing relevant investigations as ‘debunked’ until May 2021.”  
 In previous parts of this series, I have mentioned the benefits of fluvoxamine. In the December 2021 edition of the scholarly journal DRUGS, there is an article by 5 scientists titled, “Fluvoxamine for the Early Treatment of SARS-CoV-2 Infection: A Review of Current Evidence,” which has an Abstract in which one reads: “Academic and governmental experts throughout the USA met in 2021 to discuss the potential for use of fluvoxamine as early treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection….Two randomized controlled trials and one observational study examining the effect of fluvoxamine in COVID-19 treatment have found high efficacy….Fluvoxamine appears to have substantial potential as a safe and widely available medication that could be repurposed to ameliorate serious COVID-19-related morbidity and mortality….”  
 Have you ever wondered why the FDA has not granted “Emergency Use Authorization” (EUA) for fluvoxamine? Below is from Steve Kirsch’s newsletter titled “Do you know why there isn’t an EUA for fluvoxamine?” answering that question. Kirsch states: “The reason is simple. To get an EUA for a repurposed drug, you have to partner with a drug company in the EUA application. Because no drug company will partner with us, there won’t be an EUA. Ever. So most doctors will never prescribe it for COVID, even though it works better than anything else,…even after 2 trials where it had 100% risk reduction in both trials without any downside risk….When the fluvoxamine Phase 3 study published in LANCET showed the drug worked better than any other drug (including the new antiviral pills from Merck and Pfizer), the NIH simply ignored the study.”  
 As I have written before, the vaccines being used against Covid-19 (which are really gene therapy and not vaccines) have been approved on an experimental basis, and the clinical trials will not even be completed until 2023. Thus, we are just beginning to realize some of the long-term consequences. For example, on February 1, U.S. Senator Ron Johnson sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Austin asking about information provided by Ohio attorney Thomas Renz. The information was from the Department of Defense Medical Epidemiology Database (DMED) comparing a 5-year average from 2016 to 2020.2 to vaccine injury among military personnel until February 15, 2022. There was a 2181% increase in hypertension, 680% increase in multiple sclerosis, 487% increase in breast cancer, 472% increase in female infertility, 452% increase in migraines, 369% increase in testicular cancer, etc. Sen. Johnson also asked, “Have registered diagnoses of myocarditis in DMED been removed from the database from January 2021 to December 2021? If so, please explain why and when this information was removed and identify who removed it.” <https://newswithviews.com/the-origin-of-covid-19-updated-part-13/>

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| A close-up of a pretzel with sprinkles  Description automatically generated with low confidenceA close-up of a stethoscope  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**LEV U’NESHAMA (HEART AND SOUL) – TZFAT, ISRAEL**  **ANNUAL TWO FOR ONE PURIM MITZVAH**  **Purim: Thursday, March 17, 2022**  ***MITZVAH NUMBER ONE:*** Send Purim Gift Boxes to family and friends in the US. The attractive gift boxes contain an assortment of strictly kosher holiday treats.  ***MITZVAH NUMBER TWO:***Profit from your order will help provide Passover food to needy families in Tzfat Israel. One gift box is $26 (100 NIS) including postage and handling. (Expensive postage rates and delivery problems prevent our accepting Canadian orders.)  ***IT’S SIMPLE TO ORDER! (DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, March 2)***  **Shoppers: First** email your recipient list with names, addresses and brief personal messages to: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  **Payment** for your order with PayPal: use the recipient email address: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  (Tzfat shoppers may leave their cash payments at the Torah Gems Bookstore.)  Or . . . simply go to our website: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com/) and use either PayPal or your credit card  (Israeli or US) on the "How You Can Help" page. If you use Zelle, a US to US bank transfer , you may do so by using the email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  **US shoppers:** Send checks made payable to Simcha Smolensky.  **Send to:** Simcha Smolensky, 6933 N Kedzie Ave, Unit 116, Chicago IL 60645  **Contact me if you have questions:** [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  ***MITZVAH OPTION:****If you don’t want to order Gift Boxes, y*our donation in any amount will be appreciated. Send your check made payable to Simcha in Chicago or use PayPal or go to our web site, as shown above and select PayPal or use your credit card (Israeli or US). Designate on PayPal that the donation is only for the Purim program.  ***You can help make Passover more joyful for a needy Tzfat family.***  ***Yaffa Smolensky, Volunteer Program Manager***  ***Email:***[***mortsmo@aol.com***](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)***web site:***[***www.levuneshama.com***](http://www.levuneshama.com/) |

**02/07/2022 NEWS - Purimis coming - March 17 see** [**below**](#purim)**!**

**Busting Myths about Jerusalem: The Main Road?**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqxsxOzW9xg**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqxsxOzW9xg)

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| **"No Gulag, evidently, can deter the advocates of state power from believing in their own virtue and in the morality of the power they exercise. We are all Hobbesians now. Virtue is presumed to reside in the state. Its reliance on compulsion is seen as fulfilling, not undermining, morality. Our communicators, oddly employed in the private sector, work tirelessly to ensure that state control is maintained, our taxes stay high, the official message is promoted. The people know, and can only know, a tiny fraction of what Leviathan does, and what they know is what these partisans tell them." -- Tom Bethel** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TS bat Y - Returned home but still ill**  **Pray for BB – Severe sciatic needing procedure.**  **Pray for TH - Knee and Blood pressure problems.**  **Pray for EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 7:1And the LORD said unto Moses: 'See, I have set thee in God's stead to Pharaoh; and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. 2Thou shalt speak all that I command thee; and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land. 3And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

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| |  | | --- | | **Attorney Reiner Fuellmich's Opening Statements**  **@ Grand Jury, Court Of Public Opinion**  **This is only 18 minutes and you need to watch this to understand the issues**  [**https://rumble.com/vu5ro7-attorney-reiner-fuellmichs-opening-statements-grand-jury-court-of-public-op.html**](https://rumble.com/vu5ro7-attorney-reiner-fuellmichs-opening-statements-grand-jury-court-of-public-op.html)  **For more information and follow up posting of the proceedings:**  [**https://www.grand-jury.net/**](https://www.grand-jury.net/) | |

**Bennett talks to Biden after warning of ‘damaging’ Iran deal on the way**

***The two leaders discussed the growing Iranian aggression and how to curb it.***

*By* [*LAHAV HARKOV*](https://www.jpost.com/author/lahav-harkov) *Published: FEBRUARY 6, 2022 20:10 Updated: FEBRUARY 6, 2022 20:44*

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett invited US President Joe Biden to visit Israel in a [phone call](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/for-biden-and-bennett-the-honeymoon-is-over-analysis-683251) on Sunday, hours after the former warned that the Iran nuclear deal that world powers are negotiating in Vienna will make it harder to stave off a nuclear Iran.

“The leaders discussed regional challenges, foremost of which is growing Iranian aggression and steps to restrain the Iranian nuclear program,” the Prime Minister’s Office stated.

Bennett congratulated Biden on the killing of ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi last week, saying that the world is a safer place thanks to US forces.

The prime minister also thanked the US president for “his personal and his administration’s [strong support](https://www.jpost.com/opinion/biden-bennett-dispute-on-palestinians-settlements-is-really-all-about-iran-opinion-683402) for Israel, with an emphasis on US aid in funding the Iron Dome.”

They also spoke about the tensions on the Russia-Ukraine border.

Bennett and Biden met for the first time in August, when the prime minister visited the White House, and met again at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in October. They have not spoken since, but their national security advisers have repeatedly spoken and met in person.

 Earlier Sunday, Bennett told the cabinet that he is closely following the negotiations with Iran in Vienna to return to the 2015 nuclear deal between world powers and Iran. Biden has promised to return to that deal.

Bennett said that “the agreement and what appear to be its conditions will damage the ability to take on the nuclear program.

“Whoever thinks an agreement will increase stability is wrong,” he added. “It will temporarily delay enrichment, but all of us in the region will pay a heavy, disproportionate price for it.”

Bennett pointed out that in recent weeks, Iran has been upping its aggression in the region, at the same time as it negotiated in Vienna.

Israel is working to strengthen itself militarily for the coming decades, the prime minister said.

“Israel will maintain freedom of action in any situation, with or without an agreement,” he stated.

World powers have been negotiating on and off with Iran for the past 10 months for the Islamic Republic and the US to return to compliance with the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal, which restricted Iran’s uranium enrichment – but not its ballistic missile program or funding of proxy militias – until 2030, along with the gradual lifting of sanctions. The US left the deal and placed heavy sanctions on Iran in 2018, due to its malign actions in the region and evidence, found in an archive smuggled out by the Mossad, that its nuclear program was a weapons program, contrary to Tehran’s denials.

Bennett’s remarks came as Israeli officials are concerned that the renewed deal with Iran will maintain the regime’s time to nuclear breakout at less than six months. One of the flagship goals of the JCPOA in 2015 was to keep Iran a year away from nuclear breakout.

US Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley admitted in an interview with MSNBC over the weekend that the breakout time in a new deal would be shorter than the original JCPOA.

“Because of the advances that they’ve made over the years since we withdrew from the deal... it’s going to be hard to recapture the full non-proliferation benefits, the full breakout timeline,” Malley said. “That’s obviously one of the many catastrophic consequences of the decision to leave the deal.”

Iran’s current breakout time, without any deal, is weeks away, Malley argued, and a deal would extend that timeline.

“We have differences with Israel, but we are working hand in glove with them to make sure our common interests are defined,” Malley stated.

Israeli officials are also concerned about the Biden administration waiving sanctions for other countries to provide enriched uranium for the Tehran research reactor, convert its Arak heavy water research reactor and send spent and scrapped reactor fuel abroad.

The State Department said that these measures will allow “disposition of stockpiles and other activities of nonproliferation value,” and argued that the waivers are not a concession to Iran. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-695681> [When you consider the fact presented in yesterday’s article that the Iranian regime was about to collapse because of severe unrest, HAD the nitwits in power and the EU gone along with the continued restrictions and crimpling sanctions instead of caving in, the government could well have collapsed by this time. The problem is they really don’t have a good plan and they were thrilled to do anything to negate what The Donald had done. Stupidity. – rdb]

**PM says Iran nuke deal won’t boost stability; implies it won’t stop Israeli strike**

***Bennett’s comments come as the Vienna talks aimed at salvaging the moribund 2015 accord enter a critical phase***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *and* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *Today, 5:46 pm*

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett implied Sunday that Israel could launch a military strike against Iran even if the Islamic Republic and world powers revive their 2015 nuclear deal.

“The greatest threat against the State of Israel is Iran,” Bennett said during the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. “As the government, we are responsible for dealing with the Iranian nuclear program and, of course, we are monitoring the Vienna talks.

“Our position is well-known and clear: An agreement – according to the apparent terms – will damage the ability to deal with the nuclear program. Anyone who thinks that an agreement will increase stability is mistaken,” he added, according to a readout from his office. “It will temporarily delay enrichment but all of us in the region will pay a heavy, disproportionate price for it.”

Bennett accused Iran of ramping up its belligerence in recent weeks — seemingly alluding to a string of regional attacks by Tehran-aligned Yemeni rebels — despite its ongoing negotiations on returning to the nuclear deal.

“That is how you conduct negotiations, Tehran-style,” the premier declared.

“We are currently closing gaps and building up Israel’s military strength for years and even decades to come. Israel will maintain freedom of action in any case, with or without an agreement,” he added.

Bennett’s comments come as the Vienna talks aimed at salvaging the languishing 2015 nuclear deal enter a critical phase.

On Friday, as US negotiators headed back to Vienna for what could be a make-or-break session, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed [several sanctions waivers](https://www.timesofisrael.com/waived-iran-sanctions-allow-redesign-of-fordo-plant-cooperation-with-russia-china/) related to Iran’s civilian nuclear activities. The move reversed a previous decision by the Trump administration to rescind them.

The waivers are intended to entice Iran to return to compliance with the 2015 deal that it has been violating since former president Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and re-imposed US sanctions. Iran says it is not respecting the terms of the deal because the US pulled out of it first. Iran has demanded the restoration of all sanctions relief it was promised under the deal to return to compliance.

Friday’s move lifts the sanctions threat against foreign countries and companies from Russia, China and Europe that had been cooperating with non-military parts of Iran’s nuclear program under the terms of the 2015 deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

The Trump administration had ended the so-called “civ-nuke” waivers in May 2020 as part of its “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran that began when Trump withdrew the US from the deal in 2018. The former US leader complained that it was the worst diplomatic agreement ever negotiated and that it gave Iran a pathway to developing the bomb.

As a presidential candidate, Joe Biden made a US return to the nuclear deal a priority, and his administration has pursued that goal, but there has been little progress toward that end since he took office a year ago. Administration officials said the waivers were being restored to help push the Vienna negotiations forward.

“The waiver with respect to these activities is designed to facilitate discussions that would help to close a deal on a mutual return to full implementation of the JCPOA and lay the groundwork for Iran’s return to performance of its JCPOA commitments,” the State Department said in a notice to Congress that announced the move.

“It is also designed to serve US nonproliferation and nuclear safety interests and constrain Iran’s nuclear activities,” the department said. “It is being issued as a matter of policy discretion with these objectives in mind, and not pursuant to a commitment or as part of a quid pro quo. We are focused on working with partners and allies to counter the full range of threats that Iran poses.” [The US state department with he exception of Pompeo has no concept of how to deal with islamic groups because they have yet to figure out that their modus operandi is essentially the antithesis of that of most western countries. Lying is expected if it furthers your goals which are supposed to be the goals of Islam. – rdb]

World powers have been warning Iran that time is running out to restore the accord, as it continues to develop its nuclear program.

And while the Biden administration has been pushing for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian issue, Israel has insisted time and time again that “words do not stop centrifuges from spinning” and that Israel “will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon,” as stated by Bennett during [his first address](https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-un-bennett-hints-at-action-on-iran-words-dont-stop-centrifuges-spinning/) to the United Nations General Assembly last September.

The Israel Air Force has conducted a drill simulating a massive attack on Iran’s nuclear program, which employed dozens of fighter jets, public broadcaster Kan reported.

The exercise, held some two weeks ago, was attended by a US Air Force officer who participated as an observer, signaling that the US might be exploring alternative courses of action in case talks in Vienna fail.

The drill reportedly included various scenarios, including mid-air refueling, long-range strikes and responses to anti-aircraft missiles. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-a-nuclear-deal-with-iran-wont-increase-stability-or-prevent-israeli-strike/>

**Israel sanctions Lebanese companies aiding Hezbollah missile project**

***Defense Minister Gantz announces seizure of assets from three companies he says supply ‘machines, oils and ventilation systems’ for precision missiles***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 8:00 pm*

Defense Minister Benny Gantz on Sunday signed a series of administrative orders to seize the assets of three Lebanese companies that Israel accuses of supplying materials to advance Hezbollah’s efforts to manufacture precision missiles.

“Hezbollah is endangering the citizens of Lebanon and the State of Lebanon. We will continue to offer humanitarian assistance to the citizens while acting resolutely in the face of the Iranian precision [missile] project operating from the heart of Lebanon,” Gantz said in a statement issued by his office.

According to the statement, it is the second time defense officials have issued such an order in recent months, joining a seizure order signed in October against the Lebanese firm, Shreif Sanitary Co.

The latest orders name three companies — Toufali, Moubayed and Barakat — and claim the firms maintain ongoing trade deals with Hezbollah of “machines, oils and ventilation systems” required for the terror group’s “production line and the precision [missile] project in particular.”

Israel alleges that Hezbollah, which already possesses many thousands of rockets believed to be aimed at Israeli population centers, has been endeavoring, with the help of its patron Iran, to manufacture more precise missiles in Lebanon.

Gantz’s announcement came days after he said that Israel had offered to assist the Lebanese Army several times in recent months.

A group of people holding flags

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Hezbollah fighters hold their group’s flag as they stand in front of a statue of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and swear their oath of allegiance to him, during a ceremony to mark the second anniversary of his assassination, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on January 4, 2022. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

“Lebanon has unfortunately become an island of instability, and the citizens of Lebanon are not our enemies,” Gantz said to the annual conference of the Institute for National Security Studies. “Therefore, I offered four times this year to assist Lebanon, including last week in an application sent to the UNIFIL commander.”

Gantz did not say what response he received to the offers, but it is seen as highly unlikely that Lebanon would ever agree to cooperation with Israel, in particular with the IDF.

But shortly after the address, a number of security officials began leaking their disapproval to various news outlets, saying it was not a good look for Gantz to be making such gestures while Israel is trying to combat Hezbollah.

Israel and Lebanon are enemy states with no direct relations, and any communication occurs through third parties, including through the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, the peacekeeping mission that patrols the border. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-sanctions-lebanese-companies-aiding-hezbollah-missile-project/> [It is always interesting to note that it is the security officials, those charged with the job of keeping people safe that are always so timid about such issues. The seem to think if you don’t make waves or stir the pot everything will be fine – as the adversary continues to build their resources to destroy the land. The must all be radical leftists – rdb]

**Israeli police chief holds first visit to UAE to advance security cooperation**

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/img-20220206-wa0009-1-e1644176146233.jpg)***An Israeli police official will be appointed to a permanent position in the Gulf state***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:50 pm*

Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai is welcomed in the UAE, February 6, 2022. (Police Spokesperson's Unit)

Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai held his first official visit to the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, a police statement said, in a trip aimed to promote security cooperation initiatives between the countries.

The visit will include professional meetings between the Israeli police chief and senior officials in the Emirati Interior Ministry, as well as with the police chiefs of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The visit, coordinated by the Israel Police Foreign Affairs Unit, will aim to establish close professional relations with the Emirati police force, opening official lines of communication and institutionalizing the cooperation between the senior echelons in the Israeli and Emirati police forces.

As part of strengthening the relations and security cooperation between the countries, an Israeli police official will be appointed to a permanent position in the UAE and will serve at the Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi, the police statement read.

The appointed official will be responsible for coordinating all police activity in the UAE, Africa, and the Middle East.

In another example of the close security cooperation between Israel and the UAE, Israel is reportedly [planning to advance](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-said-ready-to-sell-iron-dome-to-uae-build-regional-defenses-against-iran/) the sale of missile defense systems to the United Arab Emirates, after missiles believed to have been operated by Iran-backed Houthis [were launched](https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-herzog-visits-uae-intercepts-ballistic-missile-fired-by-yemens-houthis/) during President Isaac Herzog’s landmark visit to Abu Dhabi last month.

Abu Dhabi is currently operating a South Korean missile defense system.

However, [disagreements](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-airlines-may-halt-flights-to-dubai-over-security-concerns/) between the Shin Bet and authorities in the United Arab Emirates over security arrangements in the central Gulf city’s airport may soon lead Israeli airlines to halting flights to Dubai.

A Foreign Ministry source said that the disagreements were merely “technical” and would be hammered out in the coming days.

Israeli officials quoted by Walla, Haaretz, and others said that the Prime Minister’s Office, The Foreign Ministry, Transportation Ministry and the Shin Bet are currently in talks with the Emirati government to resolve the issue. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-police-chief-holds-first-visit-to-uae-to-advance-security-cooperation/>

**Cabinet okays Citizenship Law for Knesset vote, over objection of Meretz, Ra’am**

***If passed, controversial bill would renew ban on permits for Palestinians who marry Israelis to live with their spouses in Israel; opposing coalition members warn of repercussions***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:03 pm*

Members of the cabinet on Sunday approved the controversial so-called Citizenship Law for a vote in the Knesset plenum, despite objections from the coalition’s Meretz and Ra’am parties.

The bill is expected to be brought before the plenum this week.

If passed, the law would renew a ban on permits for Palestinians who marry Israelis to live with their spouses in Israel. The ban was first passed in 2003 and had been renewed every year since, until last July when the law expired after the coalition failed to win a vote on extending it.

Both left-wing Meretz and Arab Islamist Ra’am oppose the legislation, which they say discriminates against the Israel Arab population, and both have warned of consequences for the coalition if the government moves forward on a contentious issue while ignoring their opposition. [Same concept as anchor babies. – rdb]

The coalition’s razor-thin majority in the Knesset means it needs every single member to vote on most bills in order to pass them. Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked, who is spearheading the legislation, appears to be banking on support for this bill from the opposition as well.

Meretz party chief Nitzan Horowitz called the decision “a breaking of the rules” of consensus that underpin the coalition and warned it would have “future repercussions.”

On Saturday, Horowitz warned of a “painful response” if Shaked moves forward with the bill.  “It’s a racist law, a law that discriminates against Israel’s Arab citizens, a law that has no place in a democracy. We’ve said we cannot support this law,” Horowitz told Channel 12.

“Anyone who goes against the agreements must understand it will come at a price.” [ The leftists would rather give up their land than to be perceived as being ‘unkind’ to their adversaries. Amazing. Self-hating individuals. rdb

Last month, the High Court [ordered Shaked](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/high-court-to-shaked-stop-enforcing-expired-citizenship-law-on-palestinian-spouses/) to cease her de facto ban on Palestinian spouses receiving residency in Israel, saying that she was attempting to enforce a law that expired in July. Shaked then vowed to bring the bill back to the Knesset floor.

“Over 100 members of Knesset support the bill, which is an essential one for the security of the state and for maintaining its Jewish identity,” Shaked tweeted Sunday.

A similar bill, [proposed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/coalition-fells-oppositions-immigration-legislation-in-preliminary-vote/) by Religious Zionism MK Simcha Rotman of the opposition, passed a vote in the Ministerial Committee for Legislation last month, allowing it to be fast-tracked through the legislative process. From there, the bill goes to the Knesset, where it must still pass three votes before becoming law.

Rothman’s bill is seen as more likely to gain backing by the full Knesset due to its sponsor, hence the government’s desire to advance its own legislation, but it was not immediately clear which bill would move forward or if the two bills would be united.

The Labor, New Hope and Blue and White coalition parties all said they would support a renewal of the Citizenship Law. Left-wing Labor party chairwoman Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli said her party supports the bill “for security reasons” but noted that “the problems that the bill raises cannot be ignored.”

While the right-wing parties in the opposition all support the legislation in principle, they voted against it last year in order to embarrass the government and attempt to fracture the diverse coalition.

The law has been wildly controversial since its inception, with rights groups charging that it discriminates against Palestinians and Arab Israelis. The Supreme Court upheld the law in a 6-5 decision in 2012 after a protracted legal battle.

Around 12,700 Palestinians married to Israelis live in Israel with temporary documentation, and are required to constantly renew their fragile status in the country. For years, most were not permitted to drive or open bank accounts. If their Israeli spouse dies or they divorce, they could be deported — forcing their children to either leave with them for the West Bank or stay behind without them.

Around 130,000 Palestinians were granted family unification rights during the 1990s, before the ban went into effect. According to the Shin Bet security service, some 155 of those people or their descendants have been involved in terror attacks since 2001. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/cabinet-okays-citizenship-law-for-knesset-vote-over-objection-of-meretz-raam/>

**Herzog, Erdogan discuss possible meeting in phone call**

***The conversation marks the latest example of the warming relations between Jerusalem and Ankara***

*By* [*Tobias Siegal*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/tobias-siegal/) *Today, 10:53 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/07/AP21170439376374.jpeg)

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (left) and President Isaac Herzog (right). (AP)

President Isaac Herzog spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday evening, ahead of a possible meeting between the two leaders, in the latest sign of the warming relations between the countries.

According to a press release issued by the President’s Office, Herzog wished Erdogan a speedy recovery after the Turkish president tested positive for COVID-19, together with his wife, the previous day.

Erdogan thanked Herzog for his concern about his well-being. The two leaders also discussed the possibility of meeting soon, the press release read.

The phone call represents a recent shift in Erdogan’s public policy toward Israel, with the Turkish president signaling a different approach and a desire to rekindle relations with Israel in recent months.

On Friday, Erdogan [said](https://www.timesofisrael.com/erdogan-reportedly-says-turkey-and-israel-could-cooperate-on-gas-shipments-to-europe/) that Turkey and Israel could work together to deliver natural gas from the Middle East to Europe, and the two countries would discuss energy cooperation during talks next month. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/herzog-erdogan-discuss-possible-meeting-in-phone-call/>

**Cabinet approves NIS 155 million plan to prepare for massive wildfires**

***Announcement comes six months after blaze in Jerusalem hills; Bennett says: ‘We’re not waiting for the next disaster’***

*By* [*Sue Surkes*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/sue-surkes/) *Today, 5:38 pm*

The government on Sunday approved a NIS 155 million ($48 million) national plan to prepare for massive wildfires, as part of a broader strategy for coping with the effects of climate change.

Put together by the Prime Minister’s Office, the Public Security Ministry and the Environmental Protection Ministry, the plan provides for the creation of firebreaks to distance homes from adjacent woodlands and forests and to stop fires from spreading.

It also includes better coordination with the fire service’s airborne division and a multi-year plan to strengthen the fire service in general.

“The whole world is warming because of climate change, and fires pose a real danger to life,” Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said. “The national plan we have formulated will add firebreaks in places where there are a lot of trees and where it’s easy for fires to spread, to prevent harm to life and property.” [maybe Bennett needs to look at some real statistics about ‘climate change’ and stop with the establishment mantra (which came from the WEC in the 1970’s concerning this issue. When the big shots stop sending 100 private planes to their meeting and start demonstrating personal observance of what they preach to us about, then maybe some people will listen. Big mansions have a big carbon footprint as do big fleets of limousines and private planes, but you won’t see these folks giving up on any of those items. – rdb]

An inter-ministerial team is to be set up to determine how best to protect residential and other facilities, and ensure access for fire engines and availability of water sources.

The air force will be made available to provide backup in airborne fire fighting, in line with a program to be developed by the defense and public security ministries.

The project will be funded from the budgets of the finance, public security, environmental protection, interior, and agriculture ministries as well as the Israel Lands Authority.

Last summer, some 25,000 dunams (6,200 acres) of forest around Jerusalem [went up in flames](https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-israel-gets-hotter-and-drier-it-must-prevent-fires-not-just-fight-them/) in a massive fire.

Several towns and villages were evacuated. At the height of the blaze, it was feared that Hadassah Medical Center at Ein Kerem might need to be evacuated.

At the Eitanim psychiatric hospital, 156 patients and staff assembled, ready to evacuate as the fire came close, only to realize that the sole access road was impassable. Police and fire service officers led a rescue mission through the flames.

It took [three days and the efforts of 204 firefighting crews](https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-israel-gets-hotter-and-drier-it-must-prevent-fires-not-just-fight-them/), 20 planes, IDF rescue teams, and help from Palestinian firefighters to fully extinguish the blaze. People lost homes. Luckily, none lost their lives.

In 2010, a catastrophic blaze on [Mount Carmel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Mount_Carmel_forest_fire) trapped a bus full of Prisons Service officers, most of them new recruits, who were on their way to evacuate Damon Prison before the flames got there. Their vehicle was engulfed by fire and 44 people were killed. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/cabinet-approves-nis-155-million-plan-to-prepare-for-massive-wildfires/> [ One of the big issues that is rarely discussed is “How many of the fires are set intentionally by terrorists?” They know that this has occurred in Israel as well as there have been a number of fires in the US that were huge that were intentionally set. That is a wonderful means of terrorism. – rdb]

**PM meets finance minister as he vows to tackle rising living costs**

***Bennett says competition is best tool for mitigating price hikes; Finance Ministry expected to present plan next week***

*By* [*Tobias Siegal*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/tobias-siegal/) *Today, 9:25 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/GPOZAC_4279.jpg)

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett (center) addresses a weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on February 6, 2022. (Haim Zach/ GPO)

Addressing the recent price hikes in consumer goods, gasoline, and electricity, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett vowed Sunday to enforce actions aimed at lowering the cost of living in Israel.

“One thing always lowers prices and improves consumer service — competition,” Bennett said during Sunday’s weekly cabinet meeting, adding that he intends to present the Israeli public with a comprehensive plan that will lower living costs within the next few days.

“Beyond any short-term actions that can be taken, the solution lies in identifying those spaces where competition does not exist and creating competition within them,” Bennett said. “This will require all ministers of the government. We need to ease regulation and to open up the market to competition.”

The prime minister later met with Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman and financial experts to discuss practical steps required for implementing such a plan.

Following the meeting, it was decided that the Finance Ministry will present a national plan for combating the cost of living in Israel as soon as next week.

Bennett later said that the government was facing a unique opportunity “to be brave and address these long-term structural failures that have led to a decade of price hikes.” He added that this essentially means reducing the impact lobbyists and shareholders have on the decision-making process. [Much of Israel’s population come from socialized countries where a there has been great ‘state control’ and minimal competition. The economy of Israel is a bit of a mix of socialistic and capitalistic ideologies and it has been difficult in many areas to get a lot of competition. -rDB

But despite Bennett’s apparent confidence in his government’s ability to effectively tackle the burning issue, some ministers have said it might be harder than he hopes.

Meretz Chairman and Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz noted that while competition is theoretically a good policy to encourage, it could lead to false pretenses. [The left immediately tries to throw a wet blanket on the ideas. – rdb]

“Competition can also be falsely presented,” he said during the cabinet meeting. “We currently have many retail chains and they don’t compete, they coordinate prices between them. Supervising costs should not be a dirty word,” he stated.

Liberman has argued that the cost of living in Israel is relatively low, when compared to other countries. “The inflation rate in Israel is about half what it is in similar countries, and lower than those of the US and Germany,” he said.

In an interview given to Kan Bet Radio on Sunday, Liberman argued that “Israel is entering 2022 in a good situation. It’s growing faster than all Western countries.”

However, admitting that the Israeli middle class carries most of the country’s financial burden, Liberman has stated that his goal is to strengthen the middle class, citing the [partially successful campaign](https://www.timesofisrael.com/osem-puts-off-price-hikes-as-consumers-ministers-push-against-paying-more/) led by the finance and economy ministries to convince major manufacturers and importers to postpone planned price hikes.

Price rises on a wide array of consumer goods had been announced by some of Israel’s largest food manufacturers and distributors in recent months, including Osem-Nestle, as well as by international import giants like Diplomat and Schestowitz Ltd. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-vows-to-tackle-rising-living-costs-israel/>

**'No end to pandemic in sight, new variant can emerge any day'**

***Prof. Dror Mevorach of Hadassah Medical Center tells when morbidity drops between infection waves, hospital needs are neglected, which leads to overload during peak contagion; disagrees with WHO's estimation that Omicron signals end to pandemic***

*Attila Somfalvi | Published: 02.06.22, 15:51*

A senior professional at one of Israel's biggest hospitals said Sunday there appears to be no end to pandemic in sight since a new coronavirus variant can emerge at any moment. [Be sure and keep the fear porn flowing or you might lose your momentum and the eugenic war. – rdb]

Prof. Dror Mevorach, who heads a COVID ward at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, also told Ynet that hospitals have been neglected for the past decade, adding to the strain of COVID ill.

"We have 146 patients in seven COVID wards and two intensive care units, this is more than we've ever had before," he said. [How many of those patients received HCQ or IVEMECTIN early on in their disease? How many have been given high does steroid inhalations and IV steroids as well and Zinc, high dose Vitamin D and C and aspirin. How many have been given adequate nutrition and hydration? That is what we are seeing in the US that is causing the demise of our patients. Instead they want to given them drugs like Remdesivir which destroys their kidneys and throws them into fulminant congestive failure and then ventilate them so they can generate more revenue. - RDB

 The professor claimed the Health Ministry neglected the hospitals and failed to prepare a long-term response to the pandemic. [Sounds like a whine for more money which is the usual from bureaucrats. - RDB

Professor Dror Mevorach (Photo: Yuval Chen)

"They had two years to try and fix things," he said, "but very little was done for the internal medicine wards, the ICUs and in the shortages of nursing staff. There has been no long-term planning only temporary fixes and the medical teams are having a difficult time," he said.

Mevorach said he did not expect to see in Jerusalem the same scenes that were seen in Italy during the early months of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have a dedicated team and for the most part, every need that comes up is addressed but when you have two nurses caring for 25 patients, the personal response to patients, as well as the medical care that is given, must be less than optimal," he said.

The professor also voiced his criticism over the failure to vaccinate school children in schools, in an adequate number and to make sure the public in more remote areas, has easy access to vaccines. "Poor families are less vaccinated," he said. [If he is calling for the JAB for kids then this dude is uneducated or evil. – rdb]

"There has been a lot of creativity since the start of the pandemic and those in charge have done their best, but the problems started long before COVID-19 and nothing was done to strengthen Israel's medical system, in years," Mevorach said.

When asked about the emerging [Omicron subvariant BA.2](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/hkn0o7dak) and the possible additional wave it may cause, the senior experts said he does not share the view of Hans Klug from the World Health Organization who said Omicron is has brought the world closer to a ["pandemic endgame"](https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/bjtcurstf). [If the plandemic were to end this fellow might lose some of his prestige and feelings of importance and power. – rdb]

"I don't know what such a statement is based upon, I don't think the data supports it. The new variant could develop into a separate wave and more variants could appear at any time. We hope to have two to three months of a break between waves, but we have no certainty of that," he said.

Mevorach also said the patients suffering serious complications from COVID-19 are older, have more underlining health conditions and are less vaccinated.

"Although Omicron causes a less severe illness than the Delta variant, we still have patients in need of ventilators," he said. "Those among them who are vaccinated, often suffer from other illnesses, but most of those who've received vaccines, see a less severe disease," he said. <https://www.ynetnews.com/health_science/article/b1tknqaay>

**US resident goes on trial in Iran for allegedly planning deadly 2008 mosque bombing**

***Iranian-German national Jamshid Sharmahd’s family says he is only a spokesperson for dissident US-based group Kingdom Assembly of Iran, accuses Tehran of kidnapping him from Dubai***

*By* [*AP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/ap/) *Today, 3:08 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2020/08/AP_08041301244.jpg)

An Iranian police officer and other people look through debris at the scene of a bomb explosion in a mosque, on April 12 2008 in Shiraz (AP photo)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The alleged leader of the militant wing of a US-based Iranian opposition group went on trial Sunday, state TV reported. He’s accused of planning a 2008 bombing at a mosque that killed 14 people and wounded over 200.

In 2020, Iran’s intelligence service detained Jamshid Sharmahd, an Iranian-German national and US resident. Iran said he is the leader of Tondar, the militant wing of the opposition group Kingdom Assembly of Iran.

Sharmahd’s family says he is only the spokesperson for the Kingdom Assembly of Iran, known in Farsi as Anjoman-e Padeshahi-e Iran, and has accused Iran of kidnapping him in Dubai. His hometown is Glendora, California.

Sharmahd confessed to having a relationship with both the FBI and the CIA, state TV alleged. A state TV reporter claimed he was in contact with nine FBI and CIA agents and his last meeting was in January 2020, without elaborating.

Iranian state television long has been believed to be overseen by intelligence agencies in the country and its channels

Sharmahd’s family has accused Iran of keeping their father in “555 days of solitary confinement without charges” prior to the hearing.

At the time of his detention, Iran alleged Sharmahd was behind the 2008 bombing that targeted the Hosseynieh Seyed al-Shohada Mosque in the city of Shiraz and that he was planning other attacks around Iran. Besides the 14 killed in the bombing, 215 were wounded.

German citizen [#JamshidSharmahd](https://twitter.com/hashtag/JamshidSharmahd?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) will be tried tmrw in [#Iran](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Iran?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw). [@derspiegel](https://twitter.com/derspiegel?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [@dwnews](https://twitter.com/dwnews?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

He has been denied his human and due process rights: <https://t.co/izSF6amIfB>.

1 Abducted in Dubai  
2 Denied lawyer of choice, no access to case files  
3 Blocked from family contact for last 6 months [pic.twitter.com/yj7Md5GSn7](https://t.co/yj7Md5GSn7)

— IranHumanRights.org (@ICHRI) [February 5, 2022](https://twitter.com/ICHRI/status/1490112932717412354?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Sharmahd, who supports restoring Iran’s monarchy that was overthrown in the 1979 Islamic Revolution, had been previously targeted in an apparent Iranian assassination plot on US soil in 2009.

Iran hasn’t said how it detained Sharmahd, which came against the backdrop of covert actions conducted by Iran amid heightened tensions with the US over Tehran’s collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Sharmahd had been in Dubai, trying to travel to India for a business deal involving his software company, his son said. He was hoping to get a connecting flight despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic disrupting global travel.

A picture containing text, wall, headdress, clothing

Description automatically generated

Screen capture from video allegedly showing German-Iranian Jamshid Sharmahd, a US resident, in Iranian custody as a suspect in a deadly mosque bombing. (Twitter)

Western officials believe Iran runs intelligence operations in Dubai and keeps tabs on the hundreds of thousands of Iranians living in the city-state. Iran is suspected of kidnapping and later killing British-Iranian national Abbas Yazdi in Dubai in 2013, though Tehran has denied involvement.

The US State Department runs its Iran Regional Presence Office in Dubai, where diplomats monitor Iranian media reports and talk to Iranians.

Dubai’s hotels long have been targeted by intelligence operatives, such as in the suspected 2010 assassination by the Israeli Mossad of Hamas operative Mahmoud al-Mabhouh. Dubai and the rest of the UAE have since invested even more in an elaborate surveillance network.

The Kingdom Assembly of Iran seeks to restore Iran’s monarchy, which ended when the fatally ill Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi fled the country in 1979 just before the Islamic Revolution. The group’s founder disappeared in the mid-2000s.

Last week, Iran said its intelligence units arrested the No. 2 leader of Tondar, or “Thunder” in Farsi, identified only as “Masmatus.”

Iran has also accused the group of being behind a 2010 bombing at Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini’s mausoleum in Tehran that wounded several people.

State TV said some family members of victims of the mosque bombing attended Sunday’s hearing, which was presided over by Judge Abolghasem Salavati in Revolutionary Court 15 in the capital, Tehran. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-resident-goes-on-trial-in-iran-for-allegedly-planning-deadly-2008-mosque-bombing/> [Folks keep in mind that this is the kind of government that the garbage in DC wants to have for OUR US government with their communistic ideology and attempt to completely control everything that goes in in our lives. You have seen the deep state so called ‘security groups’ FBI CIA with their break ins and assaults on people that disagree with them. The people currently locked up in DC with NO SPEEDY trial and not even indictments. This is a total disregard of the constitution and our constitutional rights. – rdb]

**African Union suspends debate on Israel’s observer member status**

***Palestinian Authority had urged union to withdraw Jewish state’s accreditation; diplomats say committee will be established to ‘study the issue’***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *and* [*Lazar Berman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lazar-berman/) *Today, 5:51 pm*

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — The African Union suspended a debate Sunday on whether to withdraw Israel’s accreditation, avoiding a vote that risked creating an unprecedented rift in the 55-member bloc.

“The Israel question has been suspended for now and instead there will be a committee set up to study the issue,” a diplomat told AFP on the closing day of the AU’s annual summit in Addis Ababa.

The committee will present its findings at next year’s AU summit.

“Israel’s acceptance as an observer in the African Union is a clear interest for us all – for Israel, for the African Union, and for the Union’s members,” the Israeli Foreign Ministry in a statement. “It will facilitate increased cooperation between Israel and African countries. Israel attaches great importance to expanding the dialogue and cooperation with the African Union in line with changes in the Middle East, and views it as an important expression of our shared activities for the continent’s next generation.”

The relationship with Israel is a rare point of contention for a body that values consensus, with powerful member states, notably South Africa, loudly protesting a decision last July by Moussa Faki Mahamat, chair of the African Union Commission, to accept Israel’s accreditation to the bloc.

The six-member committee will include South Africa and Algeria, who opposed Faki’s move to accredit Israel, as well as Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who supported it, according to the diplomats.

Cameroon also asked to be on the committee, while South Africa requested the inclusion of Nigeria as well, the diplomats said.

A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

African Union Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat at the EU Africa Forum in Vienna, Austria, December 18, 2018. (AP Photo/Ronald Zak)

As the summit opened Saturday, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh urged African leaders to withdraw Israel’s AU accreditation, denouncing its “apartheid regime.”

Member nations such as South Africa said they had not been properly consulted about the decision, which they said contradicted numerous AU statements -– including from Faki himself – supporting the Palestinian Territories.

The accreditation handed Israeli diplomats a victory they had been chasing for nearly two decades.

Israel was previously accredited at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), but lost that status when the body was disbanded and replaced by the AU in 2002.

Seventy-two countries, regional blocs and organizations are already accredited, including North Korea, the European Union and UNAIDS, according to the AU’s website. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/african-union-suspends-debate-on-israels-observer-member-status/>

**‘They hijacked Gaza’: Palestinians hold rare online events critical of Hamas**

***Public dissent is unusual in the coastal enclave, where the terror group frequently cracks down on those who criticize it***

*By* [*Aaron Boxerman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/aaron-boxerman/) *Today, 4:23 am*

For the past week, Palestinians from Gaza have been participating in a series of social media events criticizing Hamas rule in the Strip, voicing concerns rarely expressed in the repressive enclave.

Under the hashtag, “They Kidnapped Gaza,” hundreds of Palestinians have taken part in nightly Twitter conversations lamenting the suffering of ordinary Gazans. While also critical of Israeli restrictions, the speakers regularly attacked what they deemed Hamas’s poor governance and corruption.

“We see the buildings rising in the northern Gaza Strip, the investments, the high-rises. We all see it. You can’t close your eyes to it…We all know that you’re swimming in corruption,” said Jehad, a Palestinian from Gaza, during one of the events.

The conversations are held live in a function relatively new to the social media platform — the Twitter “space.” Any user can launch and administer one, and any user can join and ask to speak.

The freewheeling, often hours-long discussions have drawn young Palestinians from across the West Bank and Gaza, who have few public spaces in which to hold such talks.

Open criticism of Hamas is rare and risky for Palestinians living in Gaza. Hamas security forces are known to arrest those critical of their rule and human rights groups have accused the Islamist terror group of torturing political prisoners.

In Gaza, you’re told to shut up. Don’t you dare give voice to your pain. Because the shadow of the Internal Security forces is always pursuing your thoughts,” said Suleiman, a resident of Deir al-Balah in Gaza.

The Hamas terror group has ruled Gaza since 2007, when it took over the enclave following a bloody civil war with their Fatah rivals. Israel and Hamas have since fought four short wars, killing thousands of Palestinians and over 100 Israelis. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/they-hijacked-gaza-palestinians-hold-rare-online-events-critical-of-hamas/>

**Amid US warnings, Ukraine says diplomatic solution more likely than Russian attack**

***Zelensky aide says massive Russian troop activity along border merely aimed at creating ‘psychological pressure’ and comes as no surprise to Kyiv***

*By* [*AFP*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/afp/) *Today, 5:38 pm*

KIEV — Ukraine’s presidency on Sunday insisted the chance of resolving soaring tensions with Russia through diplomacy remained greater than that of an attack, as the US warned Moscow was stepping up preparations for an invasion.

A picture containing text, snow, outdoor, tree

Description automatically generatedInstructors and volunteers walk past a hoarding which reads as "Don't panic get ready" prior to taking part in a weapons training session at an abandoned factory in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv on February 6, 2022. (Sergei SUPINSKY / AFP)

“An honest assessment of the situation suggests that the chance of finding a diplomatic solution for de-escalation is still substantially higher than the threat of further escalation,” said presidency advisor Mykhailo Podolyak in a statement.

Podolyak said that Russia had been conducting large-scale troop rotations, maneuvers and weapon deployments on a regular basis “to ensure constant massive psychological pressure” since massing forces at Ukraine’s border last spring.

A picture containing tree, outdoor, snow, military vehicle

Description automatically generated “For our intelligence service and our armed forces, this Russian activity comes as absolutely no surprise,” he said.

Podolyak pointed out that Ukraine’s Western backers received “a significant amount” of their intelligence about Russian activities from Kyiv.

“How long will such Russian activity last and for what purpose is it maintained? Only the Kremlin can know the exact answer to this question,” he said.

A military instructor teaches volunteers as they take part in a training session at an abandoned factory in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv on February 6, 2022. (Sergei SUPINSKY / AFP)

“The task of both Ukraine and our partners is to be prepared for any scenario, and we are fulfilling this task 100 percent.”  
 The statement came after Washington said its intelligence assessments showed Moscow was stepping up moves towards a potential full-scale invasion, and has in place 70 percent of the forces it would need for such an attack.  
 [A picture containing person, person

Description automatically generated](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2021/11/AP21330442791761.jpg)  
 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky gestures while speaking to the media during a news conference in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Friday, November 26, 2021. (Ukrainian Presidential Press Office via AP)  
 Russia has assembled 110,000 troops along its border with Ukraine but US intelligence had not determined if President Vladimir Putin has actually decided to invade, US officials said.  
 The US officials warned that the assembled Russian force on the frontier with Ukraine is growing at a rate that would give Putin the force he needs for a full-scale invasion — some 150,000 soldiers — by mid-February.  
 The US officials said Putin wants to have all possible options at his disposal: from a limited invasion of the pro-Russian Donbas region of Ukraine to a full-scale, all-out invasion.  
 They estimated a major attack would leave 25,000 to 50,000 civilians dead, along with 5,000 to 25,000 Ukrainian soldiers and 3,000 to 10,000 Russian troops.  
 Russia denies that it is planning to invade Ukraine.  
 Kyiv has consistently sought to play down fears of an imminent Russian incursion as it seeks to prevent harm to its economy, with President Volodymyr Zelensky urging Western allies not to stir “panic.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-us-warnings-ukraine-says-diplomatic-solution-more-likely-than-russian-attack/> [War is always good for a failing economy at least from a political perspective. – rdb]

**Lukashenko predicts when Ukraine could join Union State with Russia**

***The US is pushing Ukraine towards war, but Kiev appears to be wary of starting one, the Belarusian leader believes***

FILE PHOTO. © AP / BelTA / Nikolay Petrov

*6 Feb, 2022 17:41*

 Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko provided his take on the current and future impact of the Ukrainian standoff, in an interview with YouTube channel ‘Soloviev Live’ partly aired by Russian media on Sunday.

The ongoing crisis is being stoked from across the Atlantic, Lukashenko said, accusing Washington of actively pushing Kiev into a war with Russia. However, if Moscow and Minsk don’t *“make mistakes”* in this situation, Ukraine might eventually reemerge as their ally, and even integrate with Russia and Belarus economically and politically, he claimed.

*“This is just the essence of the war, which is currently debated by you and by us; ‘Oh, Ukraine is going to war.’ It’s not Ukraine, it’s the Americans who are pushing them into war,”* Lukashenko said.

Over the past few months, top Western officials and media have repeatedly warned of an allegedly looming ‘invasion’ of Ukraine by Russia, a charge Moscow has consistently denied. No actual evidence to back up such claims has emerged, with the reports instead citing anonymous sources and observations of Russian troop movements inside the country’s own territory.

Ukraine seems to be very reluctant to go to war, Lukashenko observed, referring to recent statements by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The latter has accused Western politicians and media of hyping up tensions, saying they were painting the situation in his country as if it was already at war with Russia.

*“Although I didn’t expect him to behave like that, [Zelensky] has already started crying ‘No, no, there will be no war, there is no war,’ and so on. Now they are trying to drive him back into his stall to make him say that there will be war, that we’re attacking and so on,”* Lukashenko said, branding his Ukrainian counterpart a *“headless”* man. He argued that the Ukrainian president does not seem to hate *“the entire Soviet past.”*

***[Zelensky] is just an amorphous person, he has no backbone.***

Asked about the future of Ukraine, Lukashenko said the country might ultimately end up as not just an ally, but a member of the Union State, which currently comprises Russia and Belarus.

Formed in 1999, the Russia-Belarus Union State originally foresaw the establishment of a joint cabinet, parliament and courts, as well as other institutions, effectively morphing two nations into one. None of these plans have materialized so far, but the two countries enjoy a deep economic and political partnership, with plans for further integration announced by Moscow and Minsk last year. Other countries could also join the organization as well, Lukashenko suggested.

*“You know, Belarus is already there, I think that there was a good lesson for Kazakhstan,”* he said, referring to the violent turmoil the Central Asian country endured early in January, which prompted the Kazakh government to request a brief peacekeeping mission by the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

*“If you say 15 years, I’m sure that Ukraine will be there if we don’t make any mistakes,”* Lukashenko predicted. <https://www.rt.com/russia/548474-lukashenko-ukraine-union-state/>

**To win the AI revolution, companies need to evolve with it**

***The commercial progress and success of AI has indeed been slower than many expected - but that “delay” can actually work in favor of business.***

*By* [*AVITAL PESSAR-GREEN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/avital-pessar-green) *Published: FEBRUARY 6, 2022 15:40*

Automated everything, a global economic expansion in the trillions of dollars and, of course, robots everywhere. The AI revolution was – is – supposed to accomplish all this, and more.

But it turns out that the revolution is more of an evolution, especially in traditional sectors like manufacturing, maintenance and insurance, where physical objects play a key role. AI has had an important impact on numerous industries, but it has yet to reach its full potential – either because the technology is [still under development](https://edition.cnn.com/videos/business/2021/11/03/eric-schmidt-artificial-intelligence-ethics.cnnbusiness), or businesses are not quite ready for it.

The commercial progress and success of AI has indeed been slower than many expected - but that “delay” can actually work in favor of business. As machine learning, neural networks, and other AI technologies improve, more businesses will be implementing them – and that gives businesses time to get in on the ground floor of technology that is already making itself felt – and will make itself felt even more in the coming years.

Avital Pessar-Green (credit: Courtesy of Avital Pessar-Green)

Businesses that haven't jumped onto the AI bandwagon yet can still begin implementing AI technologies and business strategies – and ensure that they stay abreast, or even ahead of their competitors. And there is still plenty of opportunity to do so; a US Census Bureau study shows that AI technologies have yet to catch on in most industries. The study of nearly 600,000 US businesses shows that only a few percent were using advanced AI technologies like machine learning, machine vision, natural language processing, and others.

Even if its capabilities are currently limited, AI can have a significant impact among businesses that use it. An [Accenture study](https://fortune.com/2021/11/09/ai-artificial-intelligence-ceos-transformation-accenture-julie-sweet/) shows that the top ten percent of companies that adopted AI and cloud-based strategies grew revenue during a three year period by 25% over competitors who did not aggressively implement those technologies. And that's just with the limited AI capabilities available today.

The benefits of those limited capabilities are available right now – and businesses should be taking advantage of them, even if the benefits they can realize now are limited. It's not just about this quarter's profits – it's about preparing for the day in the very near future when AI technology will be a centerpiece of successful businesses. That preparation – including building infrastructure that will enable the organization to easily implement AI technologies, guiding customers on how that infrastructure will work, and developing work habits and procedures to accommodate AI technologies – needs to begin now, while AI is still evolving, before the revolution has really gotten underway. MORE - [innovation lag](https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/072115/companies-went-bankrupt-innovation-lag.asp). <https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/opinion/article-695662> [ this is the actual Klaus Schwab dream and that of the WEC who controls the UN and EU and much of those involved in the Deep state. Make AI the hub of everything and be sure everyone is controlled and compliant so a group can maintain their vision of the world order. Individuality and personal rights and desires are of no consequence. – rdb]

**Dr. Robert Malone pounces on media for 'fact checks' of Rogan interview**

***Critics substitute 'disinformation and hearsay for actual medical data'***

*By* [*Art Moore*](https://www.wnd.com/author/amoorewnd-com/) *Published February 6, 2022 at 12:24pm*



Joe Rogan interviews Dr. Robert Malone on Spotify's "The Joe Rogan Experience." (Video screenshot)

Dr. Robert Malone, one of the two medical scientists whose [viral interviews with Joe Rogan](https://www.wnd.com/2022/01/4978948/) has prompted calls to censor the No. 1 podcaster, is challenging a "fact check" of some of his statements by a reporter for Britain's Daily Mail.

Malone [wrote a letter to the editors](https://rwmalonemd.substack.com/p/the-truth-about-the-daily-mail-article) of the British global news giant regarding [a Daily Mail article headlined "The truth about Joe Rogan's controversial guests"](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10466285/The-truth-Joe-Rohans-controversial-guests-Dr-Malone-Dr-McCullough.html) by Harriet Alexander.

The veteran vaccine inventor, who patented the technology behind the mRNA COVID vaccines manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, told the Daily Mail's editors he wants "a public retraction with apology for the numerous false statements" made by Alexander.

Among them, he said, was her statement that more than 250 doctors signed an open letter to Spotify protesting Rogan's interviews with Malone and McCullough. But most of the "doctors" actually were nurses, trainees and podcasters.

He pointed out she misrepresented his qualifications, as have many journalists, and he [provided links to his patents and original data](https://www.rwmalonemd.com/general-4).

"It is disappointing that the Daily Mail substitutes disinformation and hearsay for actual medical data and established fact in this publication," Malone told the editors. "Spreading medical disinformation endangers patient lives. In the future, the Daily Mail would be better served by employing experienced medical writers when reviewing information provided by highly qualified medical and scientific experts."

Malone also documented Alexander's misquoting of his statement in the Rogan interview regarding COVID-19 treatments and cites the numerous studies showing hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin have been effective in treating COVID-19.

And he pointed the Daily Mail writer to a "summary of the studies demonstrating that natural immunity is superior to vaccine induced immunity" along with the evidence that the CDC, the Department of Defense and Dr. Deborah Birx have acknowledged COVID deaths have been misclassified, which, Malone said, "represents widespread falsification of deaths due to COVID-19."

Other topics for which he issued rebuttals are the incidence of myocarditis in boys, the legality of vaccine mandates, the validity of "mass psychosis theory," the data suggesting the vaccine is killing more adults than it saves, the number of excess deaths and hospitalizations due to the suppression of early treatment, the publication of false data in prestigious medical journals that later was retracted, the construction of "designed-to-fail" studies of certain medicines, the censoring of truthful information by social media companies with financial interests in vaccine development and the issuance of "unfounded, false or misleading directives" by federal agencies. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/dr-robert-malone-pounces-media-fact-checks-rogan-interview/>

**The ultimate lockdown plan and how you can escape it**

***'What if COVID was only the opening act?'***

*By* [*WND Staff*](https://www.wnd.com/author/wndstaff/) *Published February 6, 2022 at 10:36am*

A troubling question was posed this week by a writer for The Hill.

"What if COVID was only the opening act, and another proclaimed crisis is the main event?" [wondered](https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/592011-coming-soon-climate-lockdowns) Kristin Tate.

"This isn't a right-wing fever dream," she indicated. "Calls for harsh government measures in the name of saving the environment are already in the parlance of influential organizations and figures."



Police on the prowl for unvaccinated people. (Video screenshot)

People all over the world have seen with their own eyes how easily two weeks of temporary measures turned into more than two years of unheard-of "emergency" restrictions, with lockdowns killing personal freedom, crippling finances and economies, and sending fear and anxiety through the roof.

But is there something unseen driving the push for lockdowns that many people are missing?

The author of a new book says the answer is a strong yes, and the reason is not difficult to discern if people look in the right place.

"The reason is quite plain, and can be found in the Bible," says Joe Kovacs, author of ["Reaching God Speed: Unlocking the Secret Broadcast Revealing the Mystery of Everything."](https://reachinggodspeed.com/)

"The events in today's news, from the coronavirus pandemic to the resulting lockdowns, are based on a template in Scripture that often manifests in our daily lives. But it's easy to miss when we focus on the physical aspects alone rather than the spiritual."

Among the earliest recorded lockdowns, he explains, is three days of darkness that brought the ancient Egyptians to a complete standstill.

The Old Testament notes: "One person could not see another, and for three days **they did not move from where they were**." ([Exodus 10:23 CSB](https://www.blueletterbible.org/csb/exo/10/21/p0/t_bibles_60023))

Another famous lockdown was the captivity of the God's people, the Israelites, in the land of Egypt, which [the Bible calls at least 10 times](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/search.cfm?Criteria=%22the+house+of+bondage%22&t=KJV#s=s_primary_0_1) **"the house of bondage."**

"These are more than just actual, historical events depicting imprisonment and severe restriction of movement," says Kovacs. "There's a higher meaning to lockdowns, a parable meaning on the Spirit level of understanding."

The author notes Jesus Himself always spoke to the public in the symbolic language of parables, "and he did not tell them anything **without** a parable." ([Matthew 13:34 CSB](https://www.blueletterbible.org/csb/mat/13/34/p0/t_bibles_942034))

"Every lockdown that keeps people in some sort of captivity or restricts their movement is actually broadcasting an additional message on the Spirit level," Kovacs explains.

"Because in our current physical bodies of flesh, we're all actually in a type of lockdown. We have very limited movement. We can't instantly travel to the other side of the seen or unseen universe like God can. We're all trapped in a ['body of death,' as the apostle Paul called it](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nkjv/rom/7/24/p0/t_bibles_1053024). Unless we're rescued by God, the end result of lockdowns is death, and we all know that this current form in which we exist is dying.

"But the good news that God declares is freedom from the personal lockdowns in our bodies. Once we're given eternal life, we're going to be completely unshackled as we emerge out of the shell of our flesh and become completely transformed into a brand-new, immortal body."

Kovacs says Paul discussed the transformation and instant release from the lockdown of natural flesh everyone is experiencing.

*If there is a* ***natural body****, there is also a* ***spiritual body****. ... And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust,* ***we will also bear the image of the man of heaven****. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this:* ***Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God*** *...* ([1 Corinthians 15:44-50 CSB](https://www.blueletterbible.org/csb/1co/15/1/t_bibles_1077044))

*But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but* ***we will all be transformed****!*

*It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be* ***transformed****.*

***For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.***

*Then, when our* ***dying bodies*** *have been* ***transformed into bodies that will never die****, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory."* ([1 Corinthians 15:51-54 NLT](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nlt/1co/15/51/p0/s_1077051))

"The events in our physical world are being driven by the mind of God Himself," says Kovacs.

"God is using lockdowns in our temporary lives to get people to realize that freedom is far better than being trapped – whether it's trapped in our own homes because of a government lockdown, or trapped inside of our own dying bodies.

"And as is well-known, the Creator did provide **the way** out of our locked-down, bodies of flesh and death, which is following the teachings of Jesus, who says of Himself: 'I am **the way**, the truth, and the life.'" ([John 14:6 KJV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jhn/14/6/p0/t_bibles_1011006))

<https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/ultimate-lockdown-plan-can-escape/>

**Commentary:**

**Democrats Fake Justice, Part 1***By* [*Roger Anghis*](https://newswithviews.com/author/roger/)*|February 6th, 2022* Trump made the phrase ‘Fake News’ very popular.  The more he used the term, the more the fake news proved him right. When the Democrats took control of the House they exposed to Americans that they were the supporters of Fake Justice. We saw that with two impeachments that had no grounds whatsoever.  The never-ending investigations into Trump’s business dealings that produced no foul play while at the same time totally ignoring the blatant illegal dealings of Hunter Biden, Hillary Clinton, John Podesta, Barak Obama, and Joe Biden himself.  
 Adam ‘Pencil Neck’ Shiff ran secret hearings not allowing Republicans to attend.  Totally unconstitutional. Hillary Clinton deleted 30,000 emails AFTER they were subpoenaed yet not one charge has been brought against her.[1]  The Democrats and Hillary paid for the fake dossier, which effectively was a foreign influence in our election, which is unconstitutional, and still, no charges have been brought forth for anyone in the DNC or Hillary. There have been so many attacks on the constitutional process of our elections by Democrats and no one is held accountable.  Even our Supreme Court doesn’t have the guts to hear the election fraud case that has evidence that is irrefutable.[2]  
 The Deep State is very deep.  Not just the justice system, not just Congress but local and State politics as well.  Franklin Delano Roosevelt was well aware of this when he stated: ***“In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way.”***[3]  He also stated: “Presidents are selected, not elected.” But this has been scrubbed from the internet. Surprise, surprise. The form of government that our Founders gave us is no longer the government that we have today.  
 Eisenhower warned us of the great military complex in his farewell speech in 1961.[4]  He knew that there were some forceful powers in the shadows that controlled too much of the destiny of America.  Once we fully understand this we can see why there has been so much resistance to the Trump presidency.  He began to expose all of the swamp creatures in Washington and in the process, he exposed the massive corruption in our political system throughout the entire country.  It has been going on for decades and that corruption has its foundation in a shadow government. In his autobiography in 1913, Theodore Roosevelt states: ***“Behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people. To destroy this invisible government, to befoul the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics is the first task of the statesmanship of the day.”***[5]  
 But he is not the only president or high official that has warned the American people about this shadow government. Our first president, George Washington, was aware of and warned about the Illuminati in a letter he wrote on October 24, 1798: ***“It was not my intention to doubt that, the Doctrines of the Illuminati, and principles of Jacobinism had not spread in the United States. On the contrary, no one is more truly satisfied of this fact than I am. The idea that I meant to convey, was, that I did not believe that the Lodges of Free Masons in this Country had, as Societies, endeavored to propagate the diabolical tenets of the first, or pernicious principles of the latter (if they are susceptible of separation). That Individuals of them may… actually had a separation [sic]of the People from their Government in view, is too evident to be questioned.”*6** The threat of outside influence has been there literally from day one.  
 John Kennedy, in a speech titled “The President and the Press”, made this statement: ***“Our way of life is under attack. Those who make themselves our enemy are advancing around the globe. The survival of our friends is in danger. And yet no war has been declared, no borders have been crossed by marching troops, no missiles have been fired.  
If the press is awaiting a declaration of war before it imposes the self-discipline of combat conditions, then I can only say that no war ever posed a greater threat to our security. If you are awaiting a finding of “clear and present danger,” then I can only say that the danger has never been more clear and its presence has never been more imminent.***  
 ***It requires a change in outlook, a change in tactics, a change in missions–by the government, by the people, by every businessman or labor leader, and by every newspaper. For we are opposed around the world by a monolithic and ruthless conspiracy that relies primarily on covert means for expanding its sphere of influence–on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, on guerrillas by night instead of armies by day. It is a system which has conscripted vast human and material resources into the building of a tightly knit, highly efficient machine that combines military, diplomatic, intelligence, economic, scientific, and political operations.***  
 ***Its preparations are concealed, not published. Its mistakes are buried, not headlined. Its dissenters are silenced, not praised. No expenditure is questioned, no rumor is printed, no secret is revealed. It conducts the Cold War, in short, with a war-time discipline no democracy would ever hope or wish to match. Nevertheless, every democracy recognizes the necessary restraints of national security–and the question remains whether those restraints need to be more strictly observed if we are to oppose this kind of attack as well as outright invasion.”***[7]  They, the shadow government, have kept themselves out of the limelight because they knew the American people would rise up against them if what they were doing were known.  
 David Rockefeller, an anti-American low-life, is one of the many that have fought to take down America just as George Soros is doing today. In an address to the Trilateral Commission in June of 1991, he stated: ***“We are grateful to The Washington Post, The New York Times, Time Magazine and other great publications whose directors have attended our meetings and respected their promises of discretion for almost forty years. It would have been impossible for us to develop our plan for the world if we had been subject to the bright lights of publicity during those years. But, the work is now much more sophisticated and prepared to march towards a world government. The supranational sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers is surely preferable to the national autodetermination practiced in past centuries.”*** Notice that many, if not all of the nation’s news media have been involved in keeping the American people ignorant about what these globalist organizations are doing. He’s even proud of the fact that he has been involved in the attempted overthrow of America: “Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as internationalists and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure – one world, if you will.  If that’s the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it.”[8]  
 Virtually all of these usurpations of our Constitutional law have been done by the Democrats.  Republicans are just as guilty as they have done nothing to expose or stop them making them just as guilty.  C. L. De Montesquieu, a French judge, and political  philosopher stated: “The deterioration of every government begins with the decay of the principles on which it was founded.” We have witnessed that decay accelerate over the last hundred and fifty years. If we expect to continue as we were founded we must stop this from continuing.  
 Foot Notes  
 [Donald Trump says Hillary Clinton deleted 33000 em/](https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2016/oct/09/donald-trump/donald-trump-says-hillary-clinton-deleted-33000-em/)  
 [Supreme Court refuses to hear post election fraud cases including those filed by GOP: Sidney Powell](https://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/10485/20210112/supreme-court-refuses-to-hear-post-election-fraud-cases-including-those-filed-by-gop-sidney-powell.htm)  
 <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/franklin_d_roosevelt_164126>  
 <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=90&page=transcript>  
 <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2016/04/09/six-former-us-presidents-warn-invisible-shadow-government/>  
 <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2016/04/09/six-former-us-presidents-warn-invisible-shadow-government/>  
  <https://wakeup-world.com/2011/05/20/jfks-speech-on-secret-societies/>  
 David Rockefeller autobiography “Memoirs” page 405  
<https://newswithviews.com/democrats-fake-justice-part-1/>

**Mischief on Life Support Machine**

*by* [*Amir Taheri*](https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Amir+Taheri) *February 6, 2022 at 4:00 am* Ever since the roadshow known as "nuclear talks with Iran" started almost 15 years ago, we have witnessed an event unique in diplomatic annals. On the surface the whole process is designed to deal with something simple: Iran should comply with the terms of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), of which it was one of the founders. In exchange the "international community" would recognize Iran's right to enrich uranium, a right that is already granted under NPT and does not need further endorsement by "the international community".  
 And, yet, the rigmarole has produced seven unanimously passed resolutions by the United Nations Security Council and over 1,500 sanctions imposed on Iran.  
 Why is that?  
 One answer is that certain elements in Iran and in the so-called "international community" need to keep this pot boiling for ideological reasons. Seen from the West, Iran is a black sheep in the region.  
 Seen from China and Russia, the nuclear issue is an effective means of preventing Iran from returning to its historic pro-West path. An isolated Iran has helped Russia to capture a good chunk of its oil market while preventing it from using its immense resources of natural gas, probably the largest in the world, to help Europe shake its dependence on Russia. For its part, China has benefited from the Iran's isolation by dominating the Iranian market and securing oil supplies at juicy discounts.  
 Both Russia and China have been careful to show Iran its place, as low as possible by normal standards. China has excluded Iran from its grandiose "One Belt-One World" project while Russia, as seen in the recent humiliation that Russian President Vladimir Putin inflicted on Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Moscow, has shown that it treats the regime in Tehran as a vassal and not an equal partner.  
 Thus both the Western powers and China and Russia have been using the "nuclear talks" as a diversion from the real issues that the world has had with the Islamic Republic since its inception 43 years ago.  
 All this does not mean that either China or Russia is happy about the mullahs' systemic mischief-making. But both act on the assumption that if Iran goes beyond certain limits, they would be dealt with by the US or, more remotely, by Israel.  
 The current set of talks, being held in Vienna, seem set to lead to yet another shadow solution that avoids the core issues with Iran. Latest leaks and speculations suggest that the 5+1 powers that pretend to represent "the international community" intend to throw a life-buoy to the mullahs who are in sinking mode.  
 This comes in the form of a gradual de-freezing of Iran's assets abroad. The figure suggested is $700 million a month for a year, the same as negotiated by the Obama administration with Iran's former President Hassan Rouhani but cancelled by US President Donald Trump. That would help Raisi cover Iran's budget deficit for the next Iranian new year starting on March 21. If the scheme is renewed for a further year, Tehran may be able to spend a chunk of it buying the much-coveted fighter-bombers from Moscow.  
 As things stand, it is unlikely that Britain, Germany and France will reap any immediate economic benefits from the deal. They might, however, get some of their hostages released from jails in Iran. And that could offer UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, in difficulty for other reasons, some respite from charges of incompetence and lack of compassion. French President Emmanuel Macron, facing re-election in a few weeks' time would also benefit from appearing on TV hugging long-suffering hostages coming home.  
 President Joe Biden, heir to Obama's "greatest diplomatic legacy" will also get something.  
 First he would undo what Trump, a hate figure for Obamaists, did. Next, he would claim his slogans "diplomacy is back" and "multilateralism is back". More importantly, from an image angle, he would get more American hostages released by Iran than Trump did with his "maximum pressure" policy, while claiming that the cash released to the mullahs was not a ransom but a humanitarian investment.  
 Déjà vu again? Yes, in the past four decades, we have been there many times. President Jimmy Carter tried it with the Algiers Accord he signed with the mullahs. President Ronald Reagan continued the same policy by smuggling arms to Iran. President George W. H. Bush offered his "goodwill breeds goodwill" olive branch, lifting many sanctions and helping the mullahs live another day. President Bill Clinton apologized to the mullahs for "the wrong that my civilization has made" to Islam. He lifted many of the sanctions imposed by his predecessors and even claimed that he found the political system imposed on Iran by the mullahs to be "closer to my democratic conventions".  
 President George W. Bush listed Iran as part of the" Axis of Evil" with Iraq and North Korea. But then he invited them as equal partners in shaping the future of Afghanistan, which meant, inter alia, accepting the mullahs' demand that monarchy not be restored and that the new Afghan regime be designated an Islamic Republic. His Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, spoke of "our working relationship" with Iran in reshaping "liberated" Iraq, which meant installing Tehran's lackeys, Ibrahim al-Jaafari and Nuri al-Maliki as prime minister.  
 Obama went further than any of his predecessors to help the mullahs live another day. He invented a "fatwa", presumably by "Supreme Guide" Ali Khamenei to declare building and using a nuclear arsenal is "forbidden" (*haram*) in Islamic shariah, forgetting that Pakistan, an Islamic republic with a population twice that of Iran, has been a nuclear-armed nation for decades. Unable to pass his scheme through the US Congress, Obama also invented the P5+1 scheme that keeps issues related to Iran out of the normal framework of international law. To emphasize his keenness on helping the mullahs at a crucial time, he even arranged for $1.7 billion to be smuggled to Tehran in cash via Cyprus, straight into the hands of Gen. Qassem Soleimani's Quds Force.  
 Yes, we have been there, seen that and bought the T-shirt. Iran has managed to survive on the life-support machine granted it by the big powers for different reasons. But, even under life-support, it has continued to do the mischief it deems its raison d'être.  
 *Amir Taheri was the executive editor-in-chief of the daily* Kayhan *in Iran from 1972 to 1979. He has worked at or written for innumerable publications, published eleven books, and has been a columnist fo*r Asharq Al-Awsat *since 1987.* <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/18205/iran-mischief-life-support>

**America Is in Dire Need of a Course Correction**[*Walker Wildmon*](https://townhall.com/columnists/walkerwildmon/) *Posted: Feb 06, 2022 12:01 AM* After one year of the Biden presidency, it is clear that his administration is focused on weakening and even removing the constitutional underpinnings of America. The same underpinnings that our Founding Fathers put in place to safeguard us from human nature.  
 The question is— are we surprised to see where we are as a country? I’m not. When I look around at our culture, I see darkness. A culture made up of people who have little regard for biblical morality.  
 The prophet Isaiah warned about where we are today when he wrote, “*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20)*  
 We are living in a day where a major political party along with their allies in the media believe that men can become women and women can become men. This same party fosters lawlessness in American cities and ignores the laws designed to keep our borders sovereign and secure. Democrats hate everything about America and the ideals she was founded on.  
 To the contrary, the other party looks good on paper, but their leaders don’t know how to fight for what they believe in. Republicans are a great minority party but don’t expect much to get done once they’re in the majority. I guess you could say the same thing about Democrats. All talk and no action is how I describe the political show in Washington. It’s the most intense pillow fight on earth.  
 America was founded by men who understood human nature. In 1798, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Kentucky Resolutions, *“In questions of powers, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.”*  
 There’s plenty of mischief going on in the District of Columbia. A specific force cited in the Constitution that can be used to prevent man from mischief is the electorate.  
 After seeing wickedness advance throughout American culture and in our nation’s capital I have become more convinced that our country is in desperate need of good men and women to enforce a major course correction.  
 This is going to have to happen in several parts of society. Course correction must take place in each home, the local church, the workplace, and city halls. Men must take control of their household and begin effectively leading their families teaching their children right from wrong— what is good and what is evil. The faithful must be engaged in their churches and support their pastors in the shepherding of the body of Christ toward obedience to Scripture. Godly men and women must be leaders in the workplace— not just leaders but moral leaders that shun evil and promote good, but leaders with integrity. Lastly, godly men and women must be engaged in the electing of moral individuals to serve in government. Taking their entire household to vote for those who know right from wrong and aren’t afraid to speak the truth.  
 I don’t hesitate to criticize the political class in Washington and across state capitals around the country that have often been too concerned with their political future as opposed to the future of our country. They deserve every ounce of criticism for selling our country in exchange for access by special interests and corporate elites solely focused on profit as opposed to people.  
 The glaring issue is that these individuals are elected by you and me. It is time that the American electorate take control of this country and put an end to the insanity. Many people are fed up with the American system of government to such an extent that they want to throw their hands up and walk away. I know people who feel this way. They’ve disengaged out of frustration and lack of tangible results. We must not fall prey to this indifference.  
 God commands His people to be salt and light no matter their circumstances. Disengagement is a tool of the enemy. A strategy that will surely end in defeat. Are there enough good people to enforce a major course correction and get this country on a path that embraces biblical morality? I don’t know. History is full of examples of God using average men and women to bring about radical change. If course correction is to come about in America, it will begin household by household and neighborhood by neighborhood.

*Walker Wildmon serves asChief Executive Officer of AFA Action, the 501(c)(4) governmental affairs affiliate of AFA, as well as Vice President of Operations for American Family Association. He has been quoted by CNN, Fox News and other major news outlets. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in Political Science. He calls Tupelo, Mississippi, home and is raising his family there. Walker and his wife, Lexie, are happily married with three children.* <https://townhall.com/columnists/walkerwildmon/2022/02/06/america-is-in-dire-need-of-a-course-correction-n2602671>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**The symptoms of the fifth wave: Colds, sore throats and headaches**

***HMOs say the symptoms that characterize fifth COVID wave are different from those of previous waves.***

*Israel National News 06.02.22 23:27*

Israeli health maintenance organizations (HMOs) say the symptoms that characterize COVID-19 cases in the fifth wave are different from those which were observed in previous waves, Reshet Bet radio reported on Sunday.

In the fifth wave, according to the report, patients are reporting more upper respiratory problems, less lung damage, and there are fewer reports of loss of taste and smell.

An examination by *Kan 11 News* found that the most common symptoms reported by the HMOs are sore throats, headaches, colds, weakness to the point of exhaustion and muscle aches. Clalit Health Services said that among verified cases of Omicron, the duration of the disease is shorter compared to previous waves. Kupat Holim Meuhedet said there were fewer reports of shortness of breath in the fifth wave.

Dr. Doron Netzer, head of Clalit's medical department, said that Omicron affects the upper respiratory tract more, and as such the current wave of morbidity has reduced the proportion of patients who needed intensive care and ventilators. At the same time, Netzer added that we are witnessing severe morbidity and mortality in older populations with risk factors, and therefore it is important to continue wearing masks, ventilating closed spaces, avoiding crowds, and the most important thing: getting vaccinated.

Netzer pointed to another symptom that has been typical of the fifth wave and said that in recent weeks there have been reports from around the world of patients suffering from increased sweating at night. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321837>

**Rep. Gohmert: Israel will not be able to defend its borders without Judea and Samaria**

***About 150 key figures participate in Judea and Samaria Virtual Mega Event. MK Akunis: Ministers in this government push a two-state solution.***

*Israel National News 07.02.22 00:00*

Barkat at the event Yesha Council

About 150 key figures from Jewish communities from across the United States participated on Sunday in the first day of the Judea and Samaria Virtual Mega Event.

The conference was held in a collaboration between the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the Yesha Council and My Israel in order to present the hot topics relating to the future of Judea and Samaria.

Speakers included MK Ofir Akunis (Likud); MK Nir Barkat (Likud); Louie Gohmert, Member of the United States House of Representatives on behalf of Texas; Yigal Dilmoni, Executive Director of the Yesha Council; Sarah Haetzni Cohen, Head of My Israel; Mort Klein, National President of ZOA; Dan Illouz, Israel Director of the Shilo Forum. The next meetings will take place on February 20 and March 6.

During the conference, MK Akunis said, “I am very worried about the future of Judea and Samaria. In the current government, you can hear the statements of the Minister of Defense, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and also the ministers in this government who call themselves right-wing push a two-state solution. Recently, the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Foreign Affairs invited representatives from the Palestinian Authority to their home, where they talked about the establishment of a Palestinian state.  
 MK Nir Barkat (Likud) revealed his plan to bring a solution to the conflict and to create a good life in Judea and Samaria and said, "The more the Arabs in Judea and Samaria cooperate in the economic space, the better their situation will be. And where there is more cooperation, there is more security."  
 Rep. Gohmert said, "Israel will not be able to defend its borders without Judea and Samaria staying a part of the State of Israel. The United States supports Israel and it is good that it continue to do so."  
 Yigal Dilmoni, Director General of the Yesha Council, said, "We come across a lot of inaccurate and false information about Judea and Samaria that is presented in the media and networks in the United States, and about how the IDF operates here. This is our second year organizing a virtual event of this magnitude, with hundreds of attendees from across the United States. The Yesha Council will continue such actions in order to bring the truth from the field to the whole world. "  
 Sarah Haetzni Cohen, chairwoman of my Israel movement, "Precisely in this time of geographical distance imposed in the wake of COVID-19, it is important to continue engaging with hundreds of our partners from around the world in strategic matters and to defend our right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state. This conference joins a series of steps we are taking to deliver and connect the world to the truth."  
 Dan Illouz, ZOA's Israel Director, said, "Despite the line of the progressive wing of the extreme left, Judea and Samaria enjoys huge support in the US as we see through the hundreds of participants today. Judea and Samaria is not the problem, but the solution to regional economic growth, regional peace, and the key to the Jewish identity of the State of Israel." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321838>

**New CDC study on mask efficacy under fire for methodology**

***'The paper is entirely, irredeemably flawed - it shouldn't have been published,' says health researcher as CDC mask study comes under fire.***

*David Rosenberg 06.02.22 17:41*

A new study released by the US Centers for Disease Control is under fire over both the study’s methodology and its presentation, just two days after its publication.

On Friday, the CDC published [the study](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7106e1.htm) in its own journal, the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

For the study, CDC researchers telephoned hundreds of California residents who were tested for SARS-CoV-2 from last February till the beginning of December.

A total of 652 people who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 were surveyed, compared to 1,176 people who tested negative.

Researchers matched study participants in the negative and positive cohorts based on age groups, gender, and region within California. Participants were called two days after they received the results of their tests.

Participants interviewed over the phone were asked to self-report on how often they wore face masks while in indoor public venues, and which type they generally wore. Researchers then compared the rates at which respondents with negative tests wore masks, broke down into three categories, versus the rates at which those with positive tests said they had worn masks.

The study, which screened for people who had previously tested positive for the coronavirus, found that use of N95 (or KN95) respirators while participants were visiting indoor public venues had a statistically significant impact in reducing their odds of testing positive for SARS-CoV-2.

While surgical masks had a smaller impact, the study also found it to be statistically significant.

The impact of cloth masks, however, was not statistically significant, the report said.

The CDC quickly promoted the study, releasing an infographic showing the raw rate reduction data, while neglecting to note that cloth masks failed to cross the design threshold of the study for statistical significance.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

The infographic quickly drew criticism, with critics pointing out the CDC report itself found cloth masks failed to show a statistically significant risk reduction for infection.

Some also lambasted the methodology of the study, including its reliance on self-reporting, the low participation rates, and confounders in the data.

Dr. Vinayak Prasad, a San Francisco-based hematologist-oncologist, health researcher, and associate professor at the University of California at San Francisco, excoriated the CDC report, calling it “entirely, irredeemably flawed.”

“Its flaws are so evident that it should not have been published nor promoted.”

In a critique of the study, Prasad noted that just 13.4% of people who tested positive whom researchers had called actually answered the phone and participated in the study, with just 8.9% of people in the negative test group answering the phone.[ If this is the kind of work that the CDC does they need to be disbanded and unfunded. This is a waste of paper time and manpower. It is an embarrassment and just one more reason not to believe anything that comes from them. A Junior High School science project would have better thinking than this does. – rdb]

“When you get a response rate this low you wonder if you are inserting biases you cannot even imagine. Who are the sick COVID people who answer the phone. Are they the least sick ones? The sick ones don’t take calls. Who are the people who answer the phone who test negative? The most anxious ones? The most gullible?”

Prasad also noted that respondents who said they had not spent time indoor settings were removed from the study, as were people who had a known COVID-positive contact.

More significantly, respondents who tested positive tended to undergo testing for different reasons than respondents in the negative cohort, with 78% of positive respondents getting tested because they had symptoms, compared to just 17% of the negative cohort, which had a larger percentage of people who tested just to check if they were infected, because they are required to undergo routine screening, because they are planning to travel, or because they are undergoing a medical procedure.

“Put more technically, the root virtue of test negative strategy (comparability) is violated and unmeasured confounding is injected. Paper cannot be salvaged.”

Prasad further pointed out that self-reporting behavior after results constituted a “huge bias”.

He also noted that randomized controlled studies either found no significant risk reduction, or far smaller risk reductions, and pointed out that a 2020 CDC study did not suggest any strong connection between masking and risk reduction for SARS-CoV-2 infections. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321823>

**Following Meretz, US pressure: Israel suspends plan to connect Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim**

***Gantz and Bennett order halt to discussions on approving construction plan for E-1 area, due to objections from Meretz and the US.***

*Israel National News 07.02.22 01:16*

Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett have ordered the Judea and Samaria High Planning Committee to suspend discussions on approving the construction plan for the E-1 area, which connects Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem, Israel Hayom reports.

This is a plan that covers an area of ​​about 12,000 dunams, most of them state-owned land, and which centers around the construction of about 3,500 housing units.

The committee began discussing the plan only at the end of Benjamin Netanyahu's last term as Prime Minister, after it was frozen for many years. Bennett and Gantz's intervention came in the fourth phase of the plans six approval stages, after most of the Palestinian Arabs' objections to the plan were heard.

According to the *Israel Hayom* report, the directive to stop the discussions and stop promoting the plan followed fierce objections by the Meretz party, which made it clear that it considered the E-1 plan a "red line", as well as opposition from the US, which has been consistent in this matter for many years. The United States favors the Palestinian Arab position on E-1 and claims that the plan interrupts the Palestinian continuum from north to south and "may prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in the future."

The Israeli position, on the other hand, is that the plan does not interrupt any such sequence, which does not exist in any case, and that, if necessary, the E-1 area can be bypassed both by roads and tunnels and by construction. All prime ministers, since Yitzhak Rabin who initiated the plan, have expressed public support for it but have had difficulty advancing it due to the political pressure.

*Israel Hayom* notes that for years, there has been an almost complete consensus in Israel regarding the need to connect Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem through the construction of E-1, and in the future - to apply Israeli sovereignty over this area, as part of the permanent borders of the State of Israel. Eight prime ministers, including Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert, pledged to build in E-1, but with the exception of the construction of a police station in the area, construction has not advanced due [to pressure and opposition](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/162813-TYf0Q) from the US and [the EU](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/276601).

"After years of a freeze, when we finally started moving in the direction of the planning approval procedures, this intervention is unacceptable," Ma'ale Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel told *Israel Hayom*, adding, "We thought Gantz was the successor of Rabin, who initiated the plan and declared E-1 lands to be state lands. Unfortunately, we are being deceived. This was done without consulting us and without our agreement. It is time to realize our hold on these lands through construction, before others take over. The claim that E-1 interrupts a Palestinian sequence is not true. Anyone who knows the area knows this. It's just an excuse to stop us from evolving and growing."

Gantz’s office declined to comment on the report, while Bennett's office did not respond to a request for comment. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321839> [Too bad Maale Adumin is literally a hop skip and a jump from Jerusalem and there is HIGHWAY 1 that connects right in between. It is a city of 40,000 people. – rdb]

**NYPD investigating two antisemitic assaults in Brooklyn**

***NYPD investigating two assaults on Jews which took place in Williamsburg on Friday night as hate crimes.***

*Israel National News 07.02.22 04:06*

The NYPD Hate Crime Task Force is investigating two assaults on Jews which took place in Williamsburg on Friday night. According to *Hamodia*, in one incident, captured on surveillance footage, an assailant walked up behind a 24-year-old Jewish man on Marcy Avenue and Stockton Street at 10:25 p.m. and punched him in the face, knocking off his shtreimel.

Another similar incident occurred nearby a few minutes earlier, though surveillance footage is not yet available. At 10:15 p.m., at Marcy Avenue and Myrtle Avenue, an assailant hit a 44-year-old Jewish man on the ear.

It is not yet known whether both attacks were committed by the same assailant.

The Anti-Defamation League has announced it is offering a $7,500 reward for information on the attacks.

“Attacks against visibly identifiable Jews here in New York and New Jersey have become practically a weekly occurrence,” said Scott Richman, the ADL’s regional director for the New York and New Jersey area.

“The Jewish community is on extreme edge and this violence has got to stop. It is becoming normalized, and we simply cannot accept that as a state of affairs,” he added.

The assaults are the latest examples of antisemitic incidents in Brooklyn. Several days ago, the New York Police Department’s Hate Crimes Task Force [arrested a man](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321580) accused of punching a Hasidic man in the nose early on Saturday, January 22 in Crown Heights.

The arrest followed the apprehension of a suspect in another high-profile antisemitic incident in Brooklyn in January.

On January 14, [a woman approached three Jewish children](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/320925) in Marine Park neighborhood, spat on one child and told them: “Hitler should have killed you all.”

The following week, the NYPD’s Hate Crimes Task Force arrested Christina Darling, 21. She faces charges of menacing and aggravated harassment — both hate crimes — as well as acting in a manner injurious to a child.

Days later, a man waving a machete in Borough Park, New York [was arrested for making threats](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321257) against the Brooklyn Jewish community. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321843>

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| A close-up of a pretzel with sprinkles  Description automatically generated with low confidenceA close-up of a stethoscope  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**LEV U’NESHAMA (HEART AND SOUL) – TZFAT, ISRAEL**  **ANNUAL TWO FOR ONE PURIM MITZVAH**  **Purim: Thursday, March 17, 2022**  ***MITZVAH NUMBER ONE:*** Send Purim Gift Boxes to family and friends in the US. The attractive gift boxes contain an assortment of strictly kosher holiday treats.  ***MITZVAH NUMBER TWO:***Profit from your order will help provide Passover food to needy families in Tzfat Israel. One gift box is $26 (100 NIS) including postage and handling. (Expensive postage rates and delivery problems prevent our accepting Canadian orders.)  ***IT’S SIMPLE TO ORDER! (DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, March 2)***  **Shoppers: First** email your recipient list with names, addresses and brief personal messages to: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  **Payment** for your order with PayPal: use the recipient email address: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  (Tzfat shoppers may leave their cash payments at the Torah Gems Bookstore.)  Or . . . simply go to our website: [www.levuneshama.com](http://www.levuneshama.com/) and use either PayPal or your credit card  (Israeli or US) on the "How You Can Help" page. If you use Zelle, a US to US bank transfer , you may do so by using the email: [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  **US shoppers:** Send checks made payable to Simcha Smolensky.  **Send to:** Simcha Smolensky, 6933 N Kedzie Ave, Unit 116, Chicago IL 60645  **Contact me if you have questions:** [mortsmo@aol.com](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)  ***MITZVAH OPTION:****If you don’t want to order Gift Boxes, y*our donation in any amount will be appreciated. Send your check made payable to Simcha in Chicago or use PayPal or go to our web site, as shown above and select PayPal or use your credit card (Israeli or US). Designate on PayPal that the donation is only for the Purim program.  ***You can help make Passover more joyful for a needy Tzfat family.***  ***Yaffa Smolensky, Volunteer Program Manager***  ***Email:***[***mortsmo@aol.com***](mailto:mortsmo@aol.com)***web site:***[***www.levuneshama.com***](http://www.levuneshama.com/) |

**02/06/2022 NEWS**

**Busting Myths about Jerusalem: The Real Marketplace?**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebhTmo\_9-Rs**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebhTmo_9-Rs)

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| **"What gives the new despotism its peculiar effectiveness is indeed its liaison with humanitarianism, but beyond this fact its capacity for enteringinto the smallest details of human life."**  **-- Robert Nisbet (1913-1996) American sociologist, author** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TS bat Y - Returned home but still ill**  **Pray for BB – Severe sciatic needing procedure.**  **Pray for TH - Knee and Blood pressure problems.**  **Pray for EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 6:26These are that Aaron and Moses, to whom the LORD said: 'Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their hosts.' 27These are they that spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring out the children of Israel from Egypt. These are that Moses and Aaron. 28And it came to pass on the day when the LORD spoke unto Moses in the land of Egypt, 29that the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying: 'I am the LORD; speak thou unto Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I speak unto thee.' 30And Moses said before the LORD: 'Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh hearken unto me?'

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| |  | | --- | | **Interesting That Mortality is Much Higher in Israel Than Less ‘Vaccinated’ Palestine - Dr. Robert Malone**  [**https://www.bitchute.com/video/qpQUa8YstuxA/**](https://www.bitchute.com/video/qpQUa8YstuxA/)  **3 very interesting minutes.**  **The Jerusalem Report Season 2 Episode 3:**  **Graphene Discovery And The Fall Of Democracy**  [**https://live.childrenshealthdefense.org/shows/the-jerusalem-report**](https://live.childrenshealthdefense.org/shows/the-jerusalem-report)  **This is 50 min but a most revealing discussion of why the JAB is toxic!**  **Dr Reiner Fuellmich and Viviane Fischer press conference**  **– UPDATE ON COVID-19 NUREMBERG 2.0 CRIMINA**  [**https://tapnewswire.com/2022/01/dr-reiner-fuellmich-and-viviane-fischer-press-conference-update-on-covid-19-nuremberg-2-0-crimina/**](https://tapnewswire.com/2022/01/dr-reiner-fuellmich-and-viviane-fischer-press-conference-update-on-covid-19-nuremberg-2-0-crimina/)  **This is 15 minutes of the plans to fight the deep state. – worth the watch** | |

**Border Police troops come under fire near Jenin; vehicle damaged, with no injuries**

***Police say several Palestinian gunmen driving off-road vehicle shoot at officers in northern West Bank***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 7:26 pm*

A police vehicle was damaged in a drive-by shooting attack in the northern West Bank on Saturday evening, law enforcement officials said.

An off-road vehicle with several Palestinian gunmen inside drove near Border Police officers conducting “routine security activity” near the Palestinian city of Jenin and opened fire, a police spokesperson said.

Officers returned fire, but the gunmen fled the scene, police said.

Police said no injuries were caused, but the officers’ vehicle was damaged by the gunfire.

Police and military forces began to scan the area.

This incident follows an uptick in attacks in the area in recent weeks.

شاهد| لحظة إطلاق النار باتجاه قوات الاحتلال قرب بلدة سيلة الحارثية غرب جنين.[#فلسطين](https://twitter.com/hashtag/%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/KSMWipAYpo](https://t.co/KSMWipAYpo)

— شبكة قدس الإخبارية (@qudsn) [February 5, 2022](https://twitter.com/qudsn/status/1490001345394487300?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

On Wednesday night, shots were fired from a passing car at an Israel Defense Forces position near the northern West Bank city of Nablus.

And last Saturday night, an IDF vehicle was damaged in a shooting attack in the same area. No injuries were caused in those attacks. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/border-police-troops-come-under-fire-near-jenin-vehicle-damaged-with-no-injuries/>

**Israeli airlines may halt flights to Dubai over security concerns**

***Issue stems from dispute over security arrangements at airport; freeze would also lead to Emirati airlines halting flights; Shin Bet mulls rerouting planes to Abu Dhabi***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 5:24 pm*

Israeli airlines may soon halt flights to Dubai following disagreements between the Shin Bet and authorities in the United Arab Emirates over security arrangements in the central Gulf city, according to multiple media reports on Saturday.

Israeli officials quoted by Walla, Haaretz and others said that the Prime Minister’s Office, The Foreign Ministry, Transportation Ministry and the Shin Bet are currently in talks with the Emirati government to resolve the issue.

A Foreign Ministry source said that the disagreements were merely “technical” and would be hammered out in the coming days.

Senior Israeli officials were also quoted as saying that if no agreement was reached, Israeli flights to Dubai will cease on Tuesday. This will also lead Israel to halt flights from Dubai to Ben Gurion Airport by FlyDubai and Emirates, in order to not give those companies an advantage over the Israeli airlines.

Flights to the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi are unaffected, but the city is a far less popular destination than Dubai.

Later confirming the report, the Shin Bet stated that “over the past few months, security disputes have emerged between the competent bodies in Dubai and the Israeli aviation security system, in a way that does not allow for the responsible enactment of security for Israeli aviation.”

However, the agency said, efforts are still ongoing to try and resolve the dispute.

“At the same time, if the flights of Israeli companies are stopped on this route, the possibility of transferring Israeli flights to Abu Dhabi is being examined,” it said.

“It should be emphasized that the disputes are solely on a security basis relating to the standards used at the airport in Dubai, and are not tied to regional diplomatic relations.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-airlines-may-halt-flights-to-dubai-over-security-concerns/>

**Scandal-plagued NSO likely to be dismantled but Pegasus will live on**

***Hacking of Israeli citizens’ phones with spyware shows need for massive overhaul of existing surveillance legislation, but company will not dissolve into nothingness; 'When so much money is involved, nothing disappears overnight,' says one expert***

*The Media Line | Published: 02.05.22, 18:58*

The scandal-plagued NSO Group cybersecurity company behind the controversial Pegasus surveillance software will likely be dissolved in the near future and then restructured under a different name, experts in the field claim.

A deluge of [negative headlines has come out over Pegasus](https://www.ynetnews.com/business/article/rklbtuc6y), a powerful spyware weapon that can remotely activate a cellphone’s microphone or camera as well as collect all of its data. A growing number of allegations against the software say that it has been misused in Israel and around the world, most notably to hack the phones of politicians, journalists, human rights activists and private citizens.

An international investigative report released last summer known as the Pegasus Project found that roughly 50,000 people across the globe had been targeted by the spyware.

In response, the United States recently decided to blacklist NSO Group, and European Parliament members have called for an inquiry into abuse of the spyware. The company also faces a number of lawsuits.

Amid all the bad press, one cybersecurity veteran believes that the embattled cyber-tech firm is taking its last gasp.

“From a tactical point of view, I think we’re seeing the last breaths of NSO,” said Guy Barnhart-Magen, chief technology officer and co-founder of the cybersecurity company Profero, “They will be dissolved and restructured into a new company with less media attention. When so much money is involved, nothing disappears overnight.”

Barnhart-Magen has more than two decades of experience in the cybersecurity industry. Founded in early 2020, Profero specializes in incident response (IR), meaning it helps companies prepare for cyberattacks, contain them and manage their aftermath if a breach occurs.

Due to its negative public image, NSO Group has resorted to paying double or even triple market average rates for certain positions when hiring, according to Barnhart-Magen.

“It’s very difficult for them to obtain the right technical people that would care more about money than morals,” he said. “They’re paying a very large premium to get these kinds of people.” MORE - <https://www.ynetnews.com/magazine/article/bjmtbdyak> [This is simply the most open and known episodes of communications hacking that is in the news. The “sophistication” of todays cellphones and computers is such that you may never know that someone is hacking your information and communications. The price paid for convenience is a loss of security and anonymity. -rdb]

**Netanyahu lawyers expected to seek delay of key testimony over phone hacking scandal**

***State’s witness Shlomo Filber reportedly had data illicitly siphoned off device; Kan: Prosecutors believe hacking did not affect case evidence***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 9:30 pm*

Attorneys of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the former owner of the Walla news site, Shaul Elovitch, are expected to request a delay in the testimony of state’s witness Shlomo Filber in Netanyahu’s criminal trial, according to reports in Haaretz and Channel 13 news Saturday.

This follows revelations that Filber, the ex-director-general of the Communications Ministry, apparently had his phone illicitly hacked by police during the investigation into Case 4000.

But Kan news reported that so far, prosecutors believe any improper use of spyware technology was not tied to evidence used in the case.

Case 4000 is the most serious of the three cases against the former prime minister. Netanyahu is alleged to have advanced regulatory decisions as communications minister and prime minister that immensely benefited Walla owner Elovitch, who was also the controlling shareholder in Bezeq, the country’s largest telecommunications firm, despite opposition from the Communication Ministry’s career officials. In exchange, he allegedly was given what amounted to editorial control over Elovitch’s Walla site.

Police and prosecutors are currently checking whether Filber’s phone was indeed hacked without court authorization, and whether any extracted data was shared with investigators in Netanyahu’s cases. They are also checking whether any other individuals tied to the investigations were hacked.

On Saturday Channel 12 published quotes it said showed an investigator for the Israel Securities Authority indicating to Filber that advanced spyware capabilities may have been utilized against him. The ISA later denied this, saying the phone was searched with a regular warrant.

“We have… software that is a generation ahead of the NSA,” the ISA investigator said, according to an interrogation transcription, referring to the US National Security Agency.

“I want you to understand, the knowledge I have about your world, your life… is thorough,” the investigator said according to the transcription. Filber was questioned by the Securities Authorities months before police first questioned him, and long before he turned state’s witness. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-lawyers-expected-to-seek-delay-of-key-testimony-over-phone-hacking-scandal/> [If this persists this may be the trial of eternity. The Netanyahu trial began actually March 20, 2020 that is almost 2 years ago. Obviously the right to a speedy trial is not part of the Israeli legal code. – rdb]

**Coalition’s Meretz warns Shaked of ‘painful response’ to Citizenship Law**

***Nitzan Horowitz says minister taking ‘a dangerous path’ by going over his party’s head; ‘Anyone who goes against the agreements must understand it will come at a price’***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 11:33 pm*

The chairman of the coalition’s left-wing Meretz party warned Saturday of a “painful response” if Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked moves forward with her plan to pass the so-called “Citizenship Law” with the help of opposition votes, bypassing his own party’s opposition.

The bill being advanced by Shaked would renew a ban on permits for Palestinians who marry Israelis to live with their spouses in Israel. The law was first passed in 2003 and has been renewed every year since, until last July when the bill expired after the coalition failed to win a vote to extend it. Shaked has vowed to bring it back to the Knesset floor, and the Ministerial Committee for Legislation [voted last month](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-nod-to-opposition-ministers-advance-new-bill-to-renew-citizenship-law/) to advance the bill.

“It’s a racist law, a law that discriminates against Israel’s Arab citizens, a law that has no place in a democracy. We’ve said we can not support this law,” Meretz’ chief Nitzan Horowitz told Channel 12.

“Now Ayelet Shaked and certain others in the coalition want to do something unacceptable — to break the basic understanding upon which this government was formed and to pass this despicable law with votes from the opposition. This is a very dangerous path. It’s a very slippery slope, and of course, our response will be strong and painful,” he added.

“Anyone who goes against the agreements must understand it will come at a price.”

The cabinet, followed by the Knesset, is set to vote on Sunday on a series of appeals to the legislation. Meretz has attempted to hit the brakes on the legislation, [filing an appeal](https://www.timesofisrael.com/meretz-seeks-to-scuttle-bill-to-renew-citizenship-law-despite-ministerial-ok/) against the bill aimed at preventing it from being fast-tracked without reforms. A second appeal was filed by Yesh Atid against a similar but more restrictive bill put forth by Religious Zionism MK Simcha Rothman of the opposition that was also advanced last month.

Rothman’s bill is seen as more likely to gain backing by the full Knesset due to its sponsor, hence the government’s willingness to advance the legislation, but it is not immediately clear which bill will move forward.

On Tuesday, Shaked announced that the appeals would be voted on by the cabinet and then the Knesset, appearing to confirm that at least one of the bills has enough support to advance. She said the activity was coordinated with Cabinet Secretary Shalom Shlomo.

“On Sunday, the government will vote on the appeals that have been submitted on the Citizenship Law, and then we will vote on them in the Knesset,” Shaked said. The minister said the legislation “has the overwhelming support of more than 100 MKs, and we cannot let politics sabotage it once again.”

While the right-wing parties in the opposition all support the legislation in principle, they voted against it last year in order to embarrass the government and attempt to fracture the diverse coalition.

The law has been wildly controversial since its inception, with rights groups charging that it discriminates against Palestinians and Arab Israelis. The Supreme Court upheld the law in a 6-5 decision in 2012 after a protracted legal battlemr-. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/coalitions-meretz-warns-shaked-of-painful-response-to-citizenship-law/>

**Israel’s serious COVID-19 cases hit all-time high of 1,213**

***Interior Minister Shaked tests positive for virus; WHO official says new Omicron sub-variant BA.2 is three times more infectious than original Omicron strain***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 10:01 pm*

The number of patients hospitalized in Israel in serious condition as a result of COVID-19 rose to 1,213 on Saturday, the highest number since the onset of the pandemic, according to new Health Ministry data. [In supposedly THE MOST JABBED or “vaxed” country in the world? Way to go. This should give you some thoughts about the JAB and that perhaps the JAB is a cause of the spread of the China Virus and its derivatives. – rdb]

The last time the number of serious patients was close to that figure was in late January 2021, with 1,193 serious COVID-19 cases.

The ministry reported 37,977 new cases identified yesterday, with a test positivity rate of 25.49%. Another 9,508 cases had been identified as of 7 p.m. Saturday.

The transmission rate (measuring the average number of people each infected person spreads the virus to) continued to fall, reaching a value of 0.88. The transmission rate is based on data from 10 days earlier and any value below 1 shows that the pandemic is shrinking.

With Israel’s COVID-19 death toll at 9,135, Prof. Eran Segal, a computational biologist at the Weizmann Institute and a top government adviser, noted on Channel 12 that 1 in every 1,000 Israelis had now died of COVID. ‘[How many of those deaths are due to the China Virus and how many are due to complications derived from the JAB that trashed the patient’s immune system so they can’t fight off other diseases AND they just happen to have a post PCR test which isn’t really diagnostic for much of anything. – rdb]

That puts Israel 47th in the world for deaths per capita, he said. In the US, the per-capita death rate is almost three times as bad. [Maybe Israel got fewer bad batches of the JAB than Israel did. They know that some batches have a much higher complication and death rate than others. – rdb]

Recent days have seen daily deaths hovering at around 50.

Some 2 million Israelis have tested positive in the current Omicron wave, Segal said. About 900 people have died during the wave — which underlines that Omicron is less deadly than previous waves, with 1 fatality per 2,000 confirmed cases.

Segal predicted that within a week, serious cases would stand between 1,050-1,250, with daily infections hovering at 30,000-40,000.

It was also reported on Saturday that Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked has tested positive for COVID-19. Shaked had taken a personal antigen test just before a planned interview with Channel 12 news, when she tested positive.

“The minister is feeling well,” her office said, adding that she would conduct an additional test at an official testing station, according to Health Ministry guidelines.

On Friday, the cabinet [voted](https://www.timesofisrael.com/cabinet-passes-rollback-of-green-pass-covid-restrictions-amid-drop-in-case-count/) to approve a rollback in requirements for the Green Pass, further easing COVID restrictions alongside a slowdown in the Omicron-led wave.

Starting on Monday, Israelis will no longer have to flash their Green Passes — which show proof of vaccination, recovery or a recent negative COVID-19 test — to enter restaurants, movie theaters, gyms and hotels.

MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-serious-covid-19-cases-hit-all-time-high-of-1213/>

**Amid uproar, PLO poised to endorse Abbas loyalists to key posts**

***Many Palestinian political activists took to social media to express strong opposition to the meeting and plans to fill the vacant positions with Abbas loyalists.***

*By* [*KHALED ABU TOAMEH*](https://www.jpost.com/author/khaled-abu-toameh) *Published: FEBRUARY 5, 2022 16:55 Updated: FEBRUARY 5, 2022 19:29*

The Palestinian Central Council (PCC), the second highest decision-making body of the PLO, is scheduled to convene in Ramallah on Sunday amid unprecedented criticism and calls for boycotting the session.

Three PLO factions, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, announced their intention to boycott the meeting, warning that it would deepen divisions among the Palestinians and reinforce the Ramallah-based leadership’s “hegemony” over major decision-making bodies.

The PFLP called on the [Palestinian leadership](https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-695121) to call off the gathering and to commit to reforming the PLO and ending the division between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian political analysts said over the weekend that the main goal of the PCC meeting is to fill vacancies in the PLO and its legislative body, the Palestinian National Council (PNC), with officials closely associated with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

The PCC, the analysts said, is expected to approve the appointment of Hussein al-Sheikh, head of the General Authority of Civil Affairs, as member and secretary-general of the PLO Executive Committee, a job held by the late Saeb Erekat until his death in late 2020.

Palestinian Authority Civil Affairs Minister Hussein Al-Sheikh speaks to The Media Line in his office in Ramallah. (credit: THE MEDIA LINE)

The Central Council is also expected to approve the appointment of a new member of the PLO Executive Committee to replace Hanan Ashrawi, who resigned in 2020 after accusing the [Palestinian leadership](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-695428) of marginalizing and excluding the PLO from decision-making.

 It was not clear on Saturday who would replace Ashrawi, who announced on Saturday that she has decided to boycott the meeting.

In a letter to the PCC members, Ashrawi warned that the meeting would “reinforce the division and entrench the state of stalemate and the abandonment of partnership and democratic change through elections.”

THE 142 PCC members will be asked to approve the appointment of senior Fatah official Rouhi Fattouh as PNC speaker. He will replace Salim Zanoun, 89, who retired after 30 years in the job.

Additionally, the council members will be asked to endorse the appointment of a chairman for the Palestinian National Fund, the PLO’s unofficial finance ministry responsible for managing financial aid coming from Arab countries and a “liberation tax” levied on Palestinians working in Arab countries. The PNF is currently headed by Ramzi Khoury.

Sheikh, Fattouh and Khoury are closely associated with Abbas, who also serves as chairman of the PLO and the ruling Fatah faction.

Last month, the Fatah Central Committee “unanimously” nominated Sheikh and Fattouh as its candidates to fill the vacant spots in the PLO and PNC. The decision drew sharp criticism from a number of disgruntled Fatah and PLO officials, who accused Abbas of “monopolizing” Palestinian institutions.

The approval of the appointments of the three officials will be considered a victory for Abbas, enabling him to further tighten his grip on the Palestinian leadership.

Sheikh and Fattouh are expected to play a major role in the post-Abbas era, much to the dismay of some veteran Fatah and PLO officials who see themselves as potential successors to the elderly president.

Some Palestinians believe that Abbas is grooming Sheikh as his successor.

“President Abbas is making arrangements for the day after his departure from the scene,” said a Fatah official in Ramallah. “He wants to make sure that his close confidants assume senior and influential positions in the Palestinian leadership. These arrangements will create a lot of problems in the future.”

In an attempt to divert attention away from the criticism within Fatah and the PLO over the anticipated appointments, the Palestinian leadership announced on Saturday that the PCC session will discuss “the colonial settlement war facing the Palestinian cause and the stagnation in the Middle East peace process [with Israel].”

The session’s agenda includes “following up on Palestinian issues that were brought before the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, and the Human Rights Council,” the Palestinian leadership said.

The PCC, in addition, “will discuss the situation in occupied Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state, the popular resistance against the Israeli occupation and settlement and how to develop and activate it, as well as the issue of prisoners and families of martyrs,” it added.

IN ITS LAST meeting in 2018, the Central Council recommended that the Palestinian leadership suspend the recognition of Israel until it recognizes the Palestinian state and end security coordination between the PA security forces and Israel.

According to Palestinian sources, Abbas has faced pressure from the US administration to avoid similar decisions during the upcoming meeting so as not to increase tensions between the Palestinians and Israel.

PLO official Wasel Abu Yusef said the PCC will place the interests of the Palestinians “above all other considerations,” notwithstanding the positions of the US administration and Israel. He pointed out that the Palestinian leadership had in the past rejected pressure by the Americans and Israel. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-695596> [More of the same with a continuation of the Ara-rat and Abbas criminal groups skimming funds from the dupped donors to the “PA” who keep these creeps ‘bolstered’ ostensibly to ‘keep peace’ and keep the people destitute and on the take so they can control them and play the international game of ‘gimmie money’. – rdb]

**Iran: US waiving sanctions on Tehran’s civil atomic program is ‘good but not enough’**

***Iranian foreign minister wants to see something ‘tangible’ from the Americans after Biden administration restored some sanctions relief is aimed at salvaging nuclear deal***

*By* [*Agencies*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/agencies/) *Today, 1:39 pm*

TEHRAN — Iran’s foreign minister on Saturday welcomed US sanctions relief intended to entice Tehran back to the 2015 nuclear deal, but said the move was “insufficient.” This is an abomination, and the US ‘leadership’ needs to be flushed. – rdb]

On Friday, the Biden administration restored some sanctions relief to Iran’s civilian atomic program as world powers and the Islamic Republic continue talks aimed at salvaging the languishing agreement.

“Lifting some sanctions in a real and objective manner could be interpreted as the good will that Americans talk about,” Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told reporters on Saturday.

However, he said the move “is not enough.”

“Good will, in our viewpoint, means that something tangible happens on the ground,” Amir-Abdollahian said. [The idiot demon-rats have not learned yet that no matter what you do it will never be enough because until you “SUBMIT” which is an interpretation of the world islam, it won’t be satisfactory. Curing stupid is not possible particularly those on the left. – rdb]

Amir-Abdollahian reiterated that one of the “main issues” in the talks is obtaining guarantees that the US will not withdraw from the 2015 deal again. [Unless it is presented as a treaty that can’t happen and if it is a treaty and passes then the Senate needs to be disbanded. – rdb]

“We seek and demand guarantees in the political, legal and economic sectors,” he said, adding that “agreements have been reached in some areas.”  
 Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh also called the US sanctions relief insufficient, saying Tehran expects the lifting of sanctions outlined under the nuclear deal.  
 “Everyone knows that is not sufficient,” Khatibzadeh was quoted as saying by the Iranian Jamaran news website.  
 “Indeed, the Islamic Republic of Iran is waiting for the US to implement its duties and commitments according to the nuclear deal dimensions,” he said.  
 The Biden administration on Friday [restored some sanctions relief](https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-waves-sanctions-on-irans-civil-atomic-program-in-bid-to-facilitate-nuke-talks/) to Iran’s atomic program as talks aimed at salvaging the languishing 2015 nuclear deal enter a critical phase. [That is right idiots just keep pushing to redo a treaty even when it is too late because they will be nuke capable in a couple months if they aren’t already. There is one solution for the Iranian problem and it has been the same one from the very beginning and that is to take out every one of their nuclear generating bases and also their leadership. Until that is done you will just keep on losing. – rdb]  
 As US negotiators head back to Vienna for what could be a make-or-break session, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed several sanctions waivers related to Iran’s civilian nuclear activities. The move reverses the Trump administration’s decision to rescind them.  
 The waivers are intended to entice Iran to return to compliance with the 2015 deal that it has been publicly violating since former US president Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions. Iran says it is not respecting the terms of the deal because the US pulled out of it first. Iran has demanded the restoration of all sanctions relief it was promised under the deal to return to compliance.  
 Friday’s move lifts the sanctions threat against foreign countries and companies from Russia, China and Europe that had been cooperating with non-military parts of Iran’s nuclear program under the terms of the 2015 deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.  
 The Trump administration had ended the so-called “civ-nuke” waivers in May 2020 as part of its “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran that began when Trump withdrew the US from the deal in 2018, complaining that it was the worst diplomatic agreement ever negotiated and gave Iran a pathway to developing the bomb.  
 As a presidential candidate, Joe Biden made a US return to the nuclear deal a priority, and his administration has pursued that goal but there has been little progress toward that end since he took office a year ago. Administration officials said the waivers were being restored to help push the Vienna negotiations forward.  
 “The waiver with respect to these activities is designed to facilitate discussions that would help to close a deal on a mutual return to full implementation of the JCPOA and lay the groundwork for Iran’s return to performance of its JCPOA commitments,” the State Department said in a notice to Congress that announced the move.  
 “It is also designed to serve US nonproliferation and nuclear safety interests and constrain Iran’s nuclear activities,” the department said. “It is being issued as a matter of policy discretion with these objectives in mind, and not pursuant to a commitment or as part of a quid pro quo. We are focused on working with partners and allies to counter the full range of threats that Iran poses.”  
 A copy of the State Department notice and the actual waivers signed by Blinken were obtained by The Associated Press.  
 The waivers permit foreign countries and companies to work on civilian projects at Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power station, its Arak heavy water plant and the Tehran Research Reactor. Former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo had revoked the waivers in May, 2020, accusing Iran of “nuclear extortion” for continuing and expanding work at the sites.  
 Critics of the nuclear deal who lobbied Trump to withdraw from it protested, arguing that even if the Biden administration wants to return to the 2015 deal it should at least demand some concessions from Iran before up front granting it sanctions relief.  
 “From a negotiating perspective, they look desperate: we’ll waive sanctions before we even have a deal, just say yes to anything!” said Rich Goldberg, a vocal deal opponent who is a senior adviser to the hawkish Foundation for Defense of Democracies.  
 One senior State Department official familiar with the waivers maintained that the move is not a “concession” to Iran and was being taken “in our vital national interest as well as the interest of the region and the world.” The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-us-waiving-sanctions-on-tehrans-civil-atomic-program-is-good-but-not-enough/> [I read this and realize that a great deal of those that have been elected in this country have no concept of the middle eastern methodology of thinking, particularly that of the Islamic mindset. The are culturally ignorant and the result will be their own destruction. – rdb]

**Iran ‘society set to explode’ while Biden unfreezes $29 billion for regime**

***Social discontent in Iran has risen by 300 percent in the past year according to an IRGC document obtained from Edalat-e Ali.***

*By* [*BENJAMIN WEINTHAL*](https://www.jpost.com/author/benjamin-weinthal) *Published: FEBRUARY 5, 2022 18:53 Updated: FEBRUARY 5, 2022 22:56*

An activist hack organization has revealed a highly sensitive Iran Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps document that asserts Iranian “society is in a state of explosion” because of the [crippling sanctions](https://www.jpost.com/international/us-sanctions-iranians-over-alleged-plot-to-kidnap-ny-based-journalist-678654) imposed on the nation due to its illicit nuclear program. [Trump did the world a favor and the dolts in charge are hell bent on undoing it. – rdb]

The US government news organization Radio Farda obtained the document from Edalat-e Ali (Ali’s Justice), the whistleblower entity that has also secured confidential documents and video footage about the torture of Iranian prisoners, wrote Farda.

According to Radio Farda’s Golnaz Esfandiari, who authored the exclusive article, “the document covers a meeting with IRGC’s intelligence wing and quotes an official named “Mohammadi” saying that Iran’s “society is in a state of explosion.”

Mohammadi added that “social discontent has risen by 300% in the past year.”

Radio Farda said it could not verify the authenticity of the document beyond the sourcing of Ali’s Justice.

Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Hossein Salami smiles during a joint exercise called the 'Great Prophet 17' in the southwest of Iran (credit: SAEED SAJJADI/FARS NEWS/WANA (WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY)VIA REUTERS)

The official noted that “several shocks” in recent months have “shaken public trust” in the regime of President [Ebrahim Raisi](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/like-khamenei-rouhani-irans-raisi-blinks-under-threat-analysis-688951), who is listed as a US-sanctioned person for his role in several mass murders, including the massacre of at least 5,000 Iranian political prisoners in 1988.

Radio Farda reported that “Mohammadi referred to soaring inflation, including hikes in the price of food items, energy, and cars. He also noted the sharp declines in stock prices.”

“The leaked document includes notes from a November 2021 task-force meeting chaired by Brig.-Gen. Hossein Nejat, a senior IRGC commander and deputy head of Sarallah, a key IRGC base that oversees security in Tehran,” the station said.

Omri Ceren, the national security adviser for US Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, tweeted on Saturday: “The Biden administration is giving Iran a nuclear weapons arsenal,” with a link to a Daily Mail article that declares: “Biden REMOVES some Iran sanctions imposed by Trump, including unfreezing $29 billion in bank accounts overseas,  in bid to return to Obama-era deal that three negotiators have resigned over.”

In addition to officials at the meeting from the IRGC, a US-classified terrorist organization the IRGC document noted that the meeting of the Working Group On the Prevention Of A Livelihood-Based Security Crisis was attended by the Basij militia, intelligence bodies, and the Tehran Prosecutor’s Office.

The Basij militia is a volunteer force frequently used to crush demonstrations against political and economic corruption of the theocratic state.

*The Jerusalem Post* reported last month that Iran’s deputy interior minister, Taghi Rostamvandi, outlined factors during a speech that could shake the foundations of the theocratic state.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, the regime-controlled news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reported that Rostamvandi warned that Iranians are seeking with greater frequency “fundamental changes in the country,” and a secular government and way of life.

Revolts against the clerical state have erupted in Iranian society since the 1979 Islamic revolution, including the widespread Green movement protests in 2009 and massive unrest in 2019.  <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-695612>

**Thousands rally proclaiming 'Kharkiv is Ukraine' in city near Russian border**

***Thousands of demonstrators take to the streets of Ukraine's second largest city, Kharkiv, as Ukraine prepares for a possible military offensive from Russia.***

*By REUTERS Published: FEBRUARY 5, 2022 21:09*

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| --- | --- |
| People take part in the Unity March, which is a procession to demonstrate the patriotic spirit of local residents amid growing tensions with Russia, in Kharkiv, Ukraine February 5, 2022. A placard reads: "Kharkiv is Ukraine". (photo credit: REUTERS/VYACHESLAV MADIYEVSKYY)  People take part in the Unity March, which is a procession to demonstrate the patriotic spirit of local residents amid growing tensions with Russia, in Kharkiv, Ukraine February 5, 2022. A placard reads: "Kharkiv is Ukraine". (photo credit: REUTERS/VYACHESLAV MADIYEVSKYY) | People take part in the Unity March, which is a procession to demonstrate the patriotic spirit of local residents amid growing tensions with Russia, in Kharkiv, Ukraine February 5, 2022. (credit: REUTERS/VYACHESLAV MADIYEVSKYY)People take part in the Unity March, which is a procession to demonstrate the patriotic spirit of local residents amid growing tensions with Russia, in Kharkiv, Ukraine February 5, 2022. (credit: REUTERS/VYACHESLAV MADIYEVSKYY |

Thousands took to the streets of Ukraine's second-largest city on Saturday carrying banners saying "Kharkiv is Ukraine" and "stop Russian aggression", as the country braced for a [possible military offensive from Russia](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-695460).

Weeks of diplomacy between the West and Moscow have produced no breakthrough after Russia massed tens of thousands of troops near Ukraine's borders.

Moscow denies it plans to attack Ukraine but has demanded security guarantees, including a block on Ukraine joining the NATO alliance.

Kharkiv, an eastern industrial city that lies 42 km (26 miles) from the Russian border, was identified by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy as a possible Russian target, though his spokesman later said he was speaking hypothetically.

Demonstrators in Kharkiv sang the national anthem and waved Ukrainian flags, or held up flags of allies that have supported Kyiv, including the United States, Britain and the European Union.

"The people came into the streets to demonstrate that [Kharkiv is a Ukrainian city](https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/opinion/article-694863) and we will not surrender it," said Kharkiv resident Nina Kvitko. <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-695618>

**Russia-China relationship now ‘unprecedented’ – Putin**

***The Russian president met Chinese head Xi Jinping in Beijing on Friday***

*By Jonny Tickle 4 Feb, 2022 15:43*

The friendship between Russia and China has become an example of how two nations can develop together and support each other “in almost all areas,” Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

Speaking to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at their first face-to-face meeting since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Putin noted how Moscow and Beijing have been in constant contact and have continued to boost cooperation.

*“Regarding our bilateral relations, they are, indeed, developing steadily in the spirit of friendship and strategic partnership,”* Putin said in publicly-broadcast comments before the start of the discussions. *“They have acquired a truly unprecedented nature and are an example of worthy relations that help both parties to develop and, at the same time, support each other in their development.”*

Following the meeting between two leaders, Russia and China put out a joint statement echoing the tone of Putin’s comments.

“Friendship between the two States has no limits, there are no ‘forbidden’ areas of cooperat*ion, strengthening of bilateral strategic cooperation is neither aimed against third countries nor affected by the changing international environment and circumstantial changes in third countries,”* the document reads.

In the statement, Xi and Putin agreed on a bilateral agenda for the future of the two nations’ relations while also addressing how Beijing and Moscow would address third parties, including America.

As part of the statement, China took Russia’s side on the ongoing debate regarding the eastwards expansion of the US-led NATO military bloc, with both parties agreeing that it should be put to a halt.

*“The sides oppose further enlargement of NATO and call on the North Atlantic Alliance to abandon its ideologized cold war approaches,”* it reads, as well as urging the bloc to respect *“the sovereignty, security and interests of other countries, the diversity of their civilizational, cultural and historical backgrounds, and to exercise a fair and objective attitude towards the peaceful development of other States.”*

In recent years, Russia and China have worked together to boost economic cooperation, and bilateral trade now exceeds $140 billion per year. On Friday, Russia’s energy giant Gazprom and the China National Petroleum Corporation signed a long-term contract for the supply of 10 billion cubic meters of Russian gas to Beijing. <https://www.redvoicemedia.com/2022/02/dr-malone-tony-fauci-other-experts-used-burner-phones-to-plot-cover-up-covid-wuhan-lab-leak-video/> [I will anticipate that the ‘conjoint agenda” of the two does not include a viable USA or EU group which seems to have destroyed any credibility on the world stage since this current group of communists have taken over. – rdb]

**US told to withdraw own troops from Alaska**

***A Crimean politician branded Washington “cynical, shameless, and impudent” for its stance***

*5 Feb, 2022 19:51*

American demands that Russia withdraw its forces from Crimea are hypocritical and doomed to fail, a local politician has said, claiming that such a move would be the equivalent of the US pulling its soldiers out of Alaska.

Yefim Fiks, a member of the State Council of Crimea, told RIA Novosti on Friday that Washington would find it impossible to negotiate if it continues to demand that Russia move troops out of land that Moscow insists is a core part of its territory.

“I haven’t seen a more cynical, shameless, and impudent formulation of a question in my life*,”* he said. *“First of all, I want to remind the Americans that dialogue is impossible if you don’t respect the point of view of your opponent. Second, Crimea is a constituent part of Russia*. We would have the same success if we told the US to withdraw forces from Alaska, California, and other *states.”*

Fiks insisted that Washington needs to learn to negotiate with other countries respectfully and politely, and said, *“then we could have a conversation with them, but for now, there’s nothing to discuss.”*

Crimea was incorporated into Russia in 2014, after the Ukrainian government was ousted by violent street protests. Ukraine, and most other countries, have not recognized a public vote that sided in favor of returning to being governed from Moscow as legitimate.

Kiev refers to Crimea as a “temporarily occupied territory,” and the US has said that Russian withdrawal from the peninsula is a prerequisite for arms control discussions. Russian President Vladimir Putin has defended the referendum and insisted that the Crimean people exercised their right to self-determination.

The US and other Western countries have been warning for months that Russia could be planning an invasion of Ukraine in the near future. Moscow has repeatedly denied the accusations and has called for agreements that would limit the expansion of NATO, the US-led military bloc, into Ukraine and Georgia, a deal that Western diplomats have rejected. <https://www.rt.com/russia/548362-us-withdraw-troops-alaska/>

**In bid to fight extremism, Macron seeks to reshape Islam in France**

***Forum of Islam — a new body made up of clergy, laymen and women — is set to lead Europe’s largest Muslim community, with all its leaders hand-picked by the government***

*By* [*Barbara Surk*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/barbara-surk/) *6 February 2022, 12:02 am*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/AP22035454908782-e1644094779935.jpg)

Imams from the Paris Mosque gather before paying their homage to the victims of the November 13, 2015 attacks, near the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, on Friday, November 12, 2021. (AP Photo/Adrienne Surprenant, File)

[Sorry folks but does that picture kind of remind you of the KKK. – rdb]

NICE, France (AP) — The French government on Saturday introduced a new body to reshape Islam in France, part of President Emmanuel Macron’s efforts to rid it of extremism. [Good luck! When you finally start to realize that their word is not to be taken literally you might have a chance. – rdb]

The Forum of Islam in France leadership will be made up of clergy and laypeople to help guide the largest Muslim community in western Europe. All of its members will be hand-picked by the government and women will make up at least a quarter of them.

With France bloodied by past Islamic extremist attacks and having hundreds of citizens who went to fight with jihadists in Syria in past years, few disagree that radicalization is a danger. But critics also see the efforts as a political ploy to lure right-wing voters to Macron’s centrist party ahead of France’s April 10 presidential election.

Supporters say it will keep the country — and its 5 million Muslims — safe and ensure that Muslim practices in France adhere to the country’s cherished value of secularism in public life. [Living in a delusion. – rdb]

Yet critics, including many Muslims who consider the religion a part of their French identity, say the government’s latest initiative is another step in institutionalized discrimination that holds the whole community responsible for violent attacks of a few and serves as another barrier in their public lives.

It replaces the French Council of Muslim Faith, a group set up in 2003 by former President Nicolas Sarkozy, then interior minister. The Council served as an interlocutor between the government and religious leaders.

“We must turn the page,” Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said at the forum’s inaugural meeting Saturday at The Economic, Social and Environmental Council in Paris. “We are restarting relations between the state and the faith… [based on] a new form of dialogue that will be more open, more inclusive and more representative of Islam’s diversity in France.”

Islam is the second-most practised religion in France, with no single leader and multiple strains represented, from moderate to Salafist with a rigorous interpretation of the religion to outright radical upstarts.

Macron’s project includes measures like training imams in France instead of bringing them in from Turkey, Morocco or Algeria — a plan many in the Muslim community approve of. It also breaks the centralized leadership of clerics. [So how well has that worked in Gaza and the “PA” – not at all because the inculcated continue to inculcate with hatred for the infidel. – rdb]

“A single representative of the Muslim faith, who is a master of all trades, no longer exists,” Darmanin said. Women and men “who draw their legitimacy from their work and expertise in a field” will engage in the dialogue with the state, he explained.

Muslims are divided over the project. Some believers visiting the Grand Mosque of Paris for Friday prayers cautiously welcomed the idea, while others worry it’s going too far in trying to control their faith, or say that the government has singled out Islamic institutions but would not dare suggest such changes to Christian ones.

Hamoud ben Bouzid, a 51-year-old Parisian, was optimistic about Macron’s plan and his effort to include different voices from the Muslim community to show to the wider society its diversity. Members of the clergy “don’t speak for every Muslim citizen” of France, he said.

“We live in a secular country, so why not expand the forum and give voice to many more Muslims in France?” ben Bouzid said. “I would like Muslims to be heard as citizens in this country, not as Muslims. As full citizens.”

Muslims in France have long complained of discrimination in daily life, from being singled out by police for ID checks to discrimination in job searches. Whenever extremist violence hits, by foreign-born attackers or by French-born youth, France’s own Muslims come under suspicion and pressure to denounce violence. [To the muslim if you are not muslim you are discriminating against them. – rdbv]

Last year, the French parliament approved a law to strengthen oversight of mosques, schools and sports clubs. The government says it was needed to safeguard France from radical Islamists and to promote respect for secularism and women’s rights. The law has been used to shut down multiple mosques and community groups. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-bid-to-fight-extremism-macron-seeks-to-reshape-islam-in-france/>

**Prosecutors gear up as GoFundMe ‘redirects’ convoy donations**

***At least two state attorneys general have asked donors to the Canadian truck protest to come forward, after crowdfunding site seized their cash***

*5 Feb, 2022 16:11*

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and Ohio AG Dave Yost have urged citizens who donated to the anti-vaccine mandate ‘Freedom Convoy’ in Canada to come forward, after crowdfunding site GoFundMe seized nearly $8 million in donations. Morrisey says the platform engaged in “deceptive” practices.

“In [West Virginia], organizations must not deceive donors and engage in deceptive advertising practices,” Morrisey, a Republican, tweeted on Friday night. “If you’ve been victimized by a deceptive act or practice, let us know!”

In WV, organizations must not deceive donors and engage in deceptive advertising practices. If you’ve been victimized by a deceptive act or practice, let us know!

— Patrick Morrisey (@MorriseyWV) [February 5, 2022](https://twitter.com/MorriseyWV/status/1489809875345551361?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Ohio’s Dave Yost, also a Republican, issued a similar [statement](https://twitter.com/DaveYostOH/status/1489959164902322178) on Saturday morning, instructing duped donors to file a complaint on his website.

It is still unclear what kind of legal action, if any, the AGs are preparing to take.

The ‘Freedom Convoy’, a group of truckers who have clogged up roads in the Canadian capital, Ottawa for a week now, had raised $7,964,141, before GoFundMe shut down their fundraiser on Friday. The decision was seemingly made at the behest of Ottawa’s police department, which thanked the company for “*listening to our concerns as a City and a police service.”*GoFundMe announced that unless donors request refunds, the site will distribute the seven-figure sum to *“credible and established charities.”* Even though the truckers confirmed that *“funds would be used only for participants who traveled to Ottawa to participate in a peaceful protest,”* the crowdfunding platform justified its decision by saying that the protest has become an *“occupation”* of the Canadian capital.

Conservatives on both sides of the US/Canada border were outraged. Shortly after Morrisey’s tweet, Donald Trump Jr. [called on](https://twitter.com/DonaldJTrumpJr/status/1489813963751702533?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) Republican attorneys general across the US to “get people their $$$ back so it can be redirected *to the truckers.”*

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, a vocal supporter of the truckers, [called](https://www.rt.com/news/548400-musk-canada-truckers-gofundme/) GoFundMe “professional thieves,*”* and blasted the platform for allowing ‘Black Lives Matter’ protesters, including the organizers of an anarchist squat in Seattle where several people were killed, to use the platform freely.

Within hours of GoFundMe’s decision, another fundraising [campaign](https://www.givesendgo.com/FreedomConvoy2022) for the truckers was opened on Christian crowdfunding platform GiveSendGo. Amid heavy web traffic bringing the site down on several occasions since Friday evening, the campaign has raised more than $800,000 by the time of this article’s publication. <https://www.rt.com/news/548433-republican-prosecutors-gofundme-truckers/>

**Six critical questions about the Covid vaccines scientists need to answer ASAP**

[*Alex Berenson*](https://substack.com/profile/12729762-alex-berenson) *27 min ago*

In a rational world the scientific and medical establishment would be long past any pro-mRNA propaganda. The jabs have failed. They were a (semi-)noble experiment, but they’ve failed. The proof fills hospitals and morgues from Tel Aviv to Edinburgh.

Instead researchers would be trying desperately to answer the questions about what may happen next:

1. Will original antigenic sin run deeper with vaccine-generated immunity than natural immunity? In other words, do shots that produce supra-natural levels of antibodies to the original - and now defunct - spike protein lead to deeper imprinting than the natural immune response to the entire virion? If so, what may the long-term impact of that “aggravated” imprinting be?
2. What, if anything, may the near-complete failure of the vaccines to lead to the production of CD8+ T-cells mean for the development of long-term immunity to Sars-Cov-2 post-breakthrough infection?
3. Why did non-Covid deaths increase so much last fall in Europe and the United States - with the excess particularly visible in people under 50 at low risk from Covid? Why have they since retreated? Why did cardiovascular deaths in particular spike so much?
4. [Graphical user interface, table

   Description automatically generated with medium confidence](https://cdn.substack.com/image/fetch/f_auto,q_auto:good,fl_progressive:steep/https%3A%2F%2Fbucketeer-e05bbc84-baa3-437e-9518-adb32be77984.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2F6de7d641-8683-410d-989a-43d50ab80c63_1170x2157.jpeg)Has the incidence of myeloid or lymphatic cancers increased in the last year? How frequently are cases like this one in Belgium occurring? Do the cases of severe lymphadenopathy that sometimes follow the shots carry any long-term risk, or do they resolve without incident?

[Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

Description automatically generated](https://cdn.substack.com/image/fetch/f_auto,q_auto:good,fl_progressive:steep/https%3A%2F%2Fbucketeer-e05bbc84-baa3-437e-9518-adb32be77984.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fpublic%2Fimages%2F0895146d-1158-4f43-aae0-5728483f2e35_1170x1097.jpeg)

[SOURCE: Frontiers in Medicine: Pathology](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmed.2021.798095/full?s=09)

1. What about the incidence of auto-immune disorders? Is there any evidence of long-term immune system dysfunction following jabs?

[SOURCE: New-onset autoimmune phenomena post-COVID-19 vaccination](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imm.13443)

1. What, if any, protection against severe infection and death from Covid did and do mRNA vaccines actually offer AFTER factoring out deaths in the rump of elderly people too sick to be vaccinated? How does that protection decline over time? How did Omicron change it?

ADDED BONUS QUESTION for the CIA: why has China completely avoided using mRNA vaccines?

A billion people need the answers to the questions.

Which is exactly why no one in power appears to be in any hurry to ask them.

<https://alexberenson.substack.com/p/six-critical-questions-about-the>

**Olympic teams raise concerns over quarantine hotels**

*By JAMES ELLINGWORTH today*

BEIJING (AP) — Not enough food. Inedible meals. No training equipment. Some Olympic athletes unlucky enough to test positive for the coronavirus at the Beijing Olympics feel their quarantine conditions are making a bad situation much worse.

“My stomach hurts, I’m very pale and I have huge black circles around my eyes. I want all this to end. I cry every day. I’m very tired,” Russian biathlon competitor Valeria Vasnetsova posted on Instagram from one of Beijing’s so-called quarantine hotels.

Her problem wasn’t with any symptoms of the virus. It was the food.

Vasnetsova posted a picture Thursday of what she said was “breakfast, lunch and dinner for five days already” — a tray with food including plain pasta, an orange sauce, charred meat on a bone, a few potatoes and no greens.

She said she mostly survived on a few pieces of pasta because it was “impossible” to eat the rest, “but today I ate all the fat they serve instead of meat because I was very hungry.” She added she lost a lot of weight and “my bones are already sticking out.”

The quarantine hotels are increasingly the target of criticism from athletes and their teams, who are lobbying organizers for improvements. There’s a lack of transparency, too, with only some virus-positive athletes forced into quarantine hotels where their teams don’t have access, while teammates in similar situations are allowed to isolate within the Olympic village.

The rules for athletes who test positive say those without symptoms go to a dedicated hotel for isolation. Anyone who has COVID-19 with symptoms will go to a hospital. In both cases, they’ll be unable to compete until cleared for discharge.

Teams have started going public with criticism.

After Eric Frenzel, a three-time gold medalist in Nordic combined, tested positive, German delegation head Dirk Schimmelpfennig lambasted the “unreasonable” living conditions. Germany wants larger, more hygienic rooms, and more regular food deliveries so athletes who are eventually released are still fit to compete, Schimmelpfennig said in comments reported by the FAZ newspaper.

Join [@AP](https://twitter.com/AP?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) Executive Editor [@JuliePace](https://twitter.com/JuliePace?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) and reporters [@\_sallyho](https://twitter.com/_sallyho?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) and [@StephenWadeAP](https://twitter.com/StephenWadeAP?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) for a [@TwitterSpaces](https://twitter.com/TwitterSpaces?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [#Olympics](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Olympics?src=hash&amp;ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) conversation from [#Beijing2022](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Beijing2022?src=hash&amp;ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) <https://t.co/qlgTTPHhra>

&mdash; The Associated Press (@AP) [February 5, 2022](https://twitter.com/AP/status/1490052948608667657?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The pressure can pay off. Belgian skeleton racer [Kim Meylemans was brought back](https://apnews.com/article/winter-olympics-kim-meylemans-covid-isolation-8ccaf121249292e846a31a896c0250e4) from a quarantine hotel to isolation in the athletes’ village after she made a tearful post on social media. Her main gripe was the lack of information. She was loaded into an ambulance and transported from one quarantine facility to another on a day she thought she was being released.

Vasnetsova passed her time in quarantine with a little detective work. When fetching the food left outside her door, she took a glance at the boxes left outside other rooms in her corridor, whose doors were labeled with signs to distinguish Olympians from other people working at the Games who tested positive, such as team staff.

She concluded the athletes were getting worse food, and underlined it with a picture of food served to her team doctor, who had also tested positive and was living two floors below. He had fresh fruit, a salad and prawns with broccoli.

“I honestly don’t understand, why is there this attitude to us, the athletes?!” she wrote.

Two days on from her criticism, Vasnetsova is still in quarantine but things are looking up.

Russian biathlon team spokesperson Sergei Averyanov posted a picture of what he said was an improved meal delivered to Vasnetsova’s room including salmon, cucumbers, sausages and yogurt. A stationary bike will be delivered soon, he added.

Vasnetsova, he wrote, “is already smiling, and that’s the main thing.” <https://apnews.com/article/winter-olympics-quarantine-hotels-e2d2ffc60d9800cf1951cc3eaed323cb>

**Southern Baptist leader warns of looming ban on beliefs conflicting with LGBT agenda**

***'Will your church's preaching and counseling be criminalized?'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 5, 2022 at 2:21pm*

While the LGBTQ movement's agenda to stamp out Christian counselors who advise those with unwanted same-sex attractions how not to live out those urges is most developed overseas, there's now a case in Indiana that takes direct aim at biblical beliefs.

The case was outlined by [Albert Mohler,](https://albertmohler.com/2022/01/21/will-your-churchs-preaching-and-counseling-be-criminalized-will-parents-be-on-wrong-side-of-the-law-just-for-talking-to-them-about-sexuality-and-gender-a-warning-from-the-american-heartland) the head of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in an online column.

He addressed the dispute that comes out of West Lafayette, Indiana, under the stunning headline, "Will your church's preaching and counseling be criminalized?"

He pointed out that such attacks on biblical beliefs – that there are men and woman and God created marriage to join them – are expected in places like China and North Korea.

"Yet a recent development in the state of Indiana has placed religious freedom on shaky grounds," he explained. "Steve West of World Magazine reported that Faith Church in West Lafayette Indiana has, for the last 45 years, operated a free, biblical counseling ministry for members of the community. Now, however, as West wrote, 'that outreach is now threatened by a city council proposal that would penalize anyone who talked with minors to help them overcome unwanted same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria.'"

Mohler said the ordinance, 31-21, would criminalize any unlicensed person from doing what politicians have called "conversion therapy," a derogatory term implying that counselors are trying to change homosexuals into heterosexuals.

"Those found violating the statute would face a penalty of up to $1,000 per day. As West describes, 'It defines conversion therapy as any practices or treatments that seek to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender,'" the column explains.

But he warned that the proposal, if it becomes law, "would deny the freedom of gospel ministry that a church has practiced in that community for nearly a half century."

The pastor there, Steve Viars, said his organization isn't a fighting group, but the plan could, in fact, "criminalize speech rooted in deeply held religious convictions."

The ordinance advocates "clearly" targeted the ministry of this Christian church, and others similar, Mohler said.

That's undisputed as the plan cites "unlicensed" counselors, because many Christians offer their advice about biblical living outside of the walls of state-supervised offices.

One pastor in West Lafayette said, "The reason faith counselors and others choose not to be licensed is because we have dramatically different counseling presuppositions than the secular world."

Mohler explained and Christian counseling and secular counseling don't mix.

"The Scriptures make clear that you cannot integrate a Christian worldview with any other comprehensive truth claim. Psychiatry, as a modern humanistic discipline, emerged as a rather intentional effort to supplant the church’s counseling on a host of issues. It begins with a different understanding of the human being that is antithetical to the Christian worldview. Attempts to integrate a humanistic discipline with the Christian theological commitments about the human person, culminates in a way of counseling incompatible with the Scriptures and, by extension, harmful to the human person," he said.

The West Lafayette plan, he warned, "represents a direct attack on the right of churches to be churches—on the right of Christians ministers to practice Christian ministry. It is also an assault upon the rights of parents to seek biblical counseling and guidance for their children."

He pointed out that Shannon Kang, a city council member supporting the crackdown on Christianity, admitted it was as much.

She said, "Ordinances and resolutions like this are intended to change the culture."

Mohler said, "This is a candid confession of what these laws and measures are trying to do—this is an attempt to normalize the entire spectrum of the LGBTQ sexual ethic and ban any contrary worldview from the public square." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/southern-baptist-leader-warns-looming-ban-beliefs-conflicting-lgbt-agenda/>

**The Epstein Files: US Bureau of Prisons bent facts to support suicide narrative**

***The declassified papers on notorious pedophile case shed light on more suspicious details***

*5 Feb, 2022 14:31A person with grey hair

Description automatically generated with low confidence*

Jeffrey Epstein © Rick Friedman / Rick Friedman Photography / Corbis via Getty Images

Documents obtained under Freedom of Information laws by RT investigative unit The Detail include startling records revealing how the US Bureau of Prisons (BOP) moved to shut down any and all public debate about the cause of Jeffrey Epstein’s death. Along the way, evidence was distorted, material facts ignored, and key anomalies unexplored and unpublicized. [No one should be at all surprised at this ‘discovery’. The contradictions and shaky ‘evidence’ has been evident from the onset. – rdb]

After being found dead in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center on August 10, 2019, the records show that the Bureau issued statements to journalists and Epstein’s family categorically stating he’d committed suicide.  The result was international news outlets universally and unquestioningly reporting that Epstein had taken his own life from the word go, despite Chief Medical Examiner Barbara Sampson having reached no conclusion at that time, and making clear in a statement the next day that the investigation was open and ongoing.

It was not until August 16 that Sampson [publicly declared](https://www.npr.org/2019/08/16/751869191/jeffrey-epsteins-death-ruled-a-suicide-by-new-york-medical-examiner) Epstein’s death had been a suicide. The ruling was contested by leading forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Baden, who’d been hired by the billionaire’s brother to monitor the autopsy process. Speaking to the Miami Herald [two months later](https://web.archive.org/web/20191103074537/https:/www.miamiherald.com/news/state/florida/article236809668.html), he charged that “the autopsy did not support suicide,’’ and that the pathologist who conducted it had recorded this.

*“Then Dr. Sampson changed it a week later, manner of death to suicide. The brother has been trying to find out why that changed,”* Baden fulminated. *“What was the evidence?”*

No clarity on these questions has been forthcoming in the years since, although one rationale for the apparent volte-face may have been a shock *Washington Post* report [a day prior](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/autopsy-finds-broken-bones-in-jeffrey-epsteins-neck-deepening-questions-around-his-death/2019/08/14/d09ac934-bdd9-11e9-b873-63ace636af08_story.html) to Sampson’s announcement. Sources familiar with the autopsy told the paper that the process had revealed several bones in Epstein’s neck, including the hyoid, were broken, and such breakages “are more common in victims of homicide by strangulation” than hanging.

Another explanation may be the then-ongoing *“psychological reconstruction”* of Epstein’s death compiled by Robert Nagle, BOP national suicide prevention coordinator. Files released to *The Detail* by the Bureau record how Nagle – whose name is redacted in the files – arrived at the Metropolitan Correctional Center on the morning of August 13 to commence his investigation.

In his resultant report, Nagle noted that a video of an unspecified nature related to the “significant incident” was confiscated by the FBI prior to the review being initiated. He also said he’d been unable to conduct formal interviews with prison staff *“to avoid interference with pending investigations”* by the Justice Department, and that much of the information *“typically gathered”* in psychological reconstructions was not available.

These constraints *“severely limited the ability to establish accurate timelines, confirm subjective reports, establish converging and diverging lines of facts, or discover new areas of inquiry,”* Nagle wrote.

For example, he was quite amazingly unable to piece together a “detailed description” of what the officers found when they discovered Epstein, as they *“did not write memorandums and could not be interviewed.”* Furthermore, as no [pre-sentence report](https://www.txwp.uscourts.gov/presentence-report/index.html) on Epstein had been completed prior to his death, numerous sections of the reconstruction – such as a review of the inmate’s *“social history”* – were avowedly incomplete in their appraisal.

Still, despite this glaring lack of hard evidence, the document ruled conclusively that Epstein had indeed committed suicide. His decision was attributed to being unable to sleep due to an *“inability to tolerate the noise of prison,”* plus the recent unsealing of thousands of records related to his 2008 conviction on child sex offenses, and the prospect of spending the rest of his life in prison.

Sound enough reasoning, one might think – though in building his case, Nagle drew repeated attention to Epstein declaring himself on several occasions to be a “coward” in the weeks prior to his alleged suicide as indicative of suicidal intent. It’s certainly true the prisoner was recorded making such statements – but explicitly in the context of denying any intention, or even ability, to kill himself.

*“He said he is not the type who likes pain or would ever attempt to harm himself,”* one psychological assessment noted. *“[He] even does not like when he has to give blood.”*

This can only be considered a staggeringly dishonest inversion of Epstein’s comments, although Nagle’s manipulations went unremarked upon in an internal review of the reconstruction by Metropolitan Correctional Center Warden Marti Licon-Vitale. Nonetheless, in a section marked *“documentation accuracy”* she took aim at the failure of officials to log an incident report in a timely fashion, and seemingly submitting conflicting reports on the same incident.

*“Professional responsibility requires taking into account multiple descriptions of an incident as noted in your response. However, when discrepancies exist these should be compiled and noted in documentation to decrease the likelihood of conflicting conclusions,”* she wrote. *“Preconceived notions challenge the ability to remain open about alternative explanations … Please develop and provide local training for all staff that at a minimum reviews the timeframe for writing incident reports and offers guidance when there is not clear evidence of an infraction.”*

While the specific episode criticized by Licon-Vitale is entirely redacted, one can infer that this section refers to the bizarre facts documented by *The Detail* in the[first instalment](https://www.rt.com/usa/546557-epstein-suicide-prison-files-investigation/) of this investigative series. In brief, the initial incident report on Epstein’s alleged suicide on July 23, 2019 referred to “hanging/asphyxiation”, but another filed a week later was inexplicably amended to include “self-mutilation” by laceration, leading to him being disciplined for a penal code breach.

These grievances aside, Nagle’s reconstruction was received with much delight by BOP higher ups. In an internal email dated August 23, the agency’s director Hugh Hurwitz effusively praised his *“outstanding”* work, remarking it was *“unbelievable all you report without the benefit of interviews or video.”* This email is ironic in the extreme, for it truly is *“unbelievable”* that a conclusive ruling of suicide could be reached without access to basic and vital evidence.

[Four days earlier](https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/8/19/20812436/bureau-of-prisons-chief-removed-epstein-death-hugh-hurwitz-william-barr), Hurwitz was dismissed from his post by Attorney General William Barr without warning. Could this be attributable to attempting to shape the narrative on Epstein’s death, before the Federal Bureau of Investigation or Justice Department Inspector General had completed their [respective probes](https://edition.cnn.com/2019/08/10/politics/bill-barr-jeffrey-epstein-justice-department-investigation/index.html) of the case?

Whatever the truth of the matter, there is another supremely curious feature of the *“psychological reconstruction”* never hitherto publicized by any official or media outlet. A review of financial transactions associated with Epstein’s prison stay revealed that one of his attorneys “was depositing funds” into the commissary account of Efrain ‘Stone’ Reyes, Epstein’s final cellmate, *“for unknown reasons.”*

This may account for why Reyes became a person of interest in the FBI’s investigation and was [duly questioned](https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2021/may/1/covid-19-kills-jeffery-epsteins-former-cellmate/). He reportedly feared that cooperating with the Bureau might *“affect him negatively,”* but in return for his help, he was moved to a minimum security correctional center in Queens, New York, which housed high-value cooperating witnesses like rapper Tekashi69.

While there, he was reportedly [interviewed personally](https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/attorney-general-william-barr-personally-questioned-jeffrey-epsteins-cellmate-after-his-suicide-source-says/) by Attorney General William Barr as part of the Justice Department’s Office of the Inspector General’s probe, who thanked him for his input. Strangely, though, the department [has refused](https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-sdny-jeffrey-epstein-cellmate-20210112-wcalnzciznei5bcyvqbqm4rhvi-story.html) to confirm or deny the claim, while Kerri Kupec, its former spokesperson, charges that it’s *“100% false.”*

Reyes died in September 2020, five months after being released from the prison, due to a facility-wide [Covid-19 outbreak](https://www.thewrap.com/tekashi-69-released-from-prison-early-due-to-coronavirus-fears/), purportedly through complications arising from the virus. Subsequently, his niece told mainstream news outlets her uncle had frequently voiced intense skepticism that the six-foot Epstein could’ve hanged himself from the bunk frames in the cell, as they simply weren’t tall enough.

In January 2021, federal prosecutors ruled that all records related to Reyes would remain sealed, despite requests for disclosure from journalists due to the potential impact on issues allegedly unrelated to Epstein. In dismissing the request, authorities listed information concerning the billionaire included in all files related to Reyes, which ran to two pages – all of it redacted.

Almost a year to the day later, [it was reported](https://www.insider.com/justice-department-jeffrey-epstein-death-investigation-near-finish-line-2022-1) that the Inspector General report on Epstein’s death was nearing completion, with a Justice Department investigator suggesting all the team had left to do was *“dot their I's and cross their T's,”* and stating they’d be *“surprised if it's not released in the next 30 days or so.”*

Whether it will shed any light on the countless serious matters raised by the declassified Bureau of Prisons documents is anyone’s guess, although in light of the revelation Reyes was in receipt of funds from Epstein’s lawyers, The Detail has lodged a request with relevant authorities for the seal to be reconsidered.

*By* ***Keelan Balderson*** *is a UK-based journalist interested in security services, and misuse of state power. Follow his work at @altnewsuk.*

*By****Kit Klarenberg****, an investigative journalist exploring the role of intelligence services in shaping politics and perceptions.* [*https://www.rt.com/news/548335-epstein-us-bureau-prison/*](https://www.rt.com/news/548335-epstein-us-bureau-prison/)

[If this isn’t as sticky as a 3 day old rotten dead fish on the banks of a river I don’t know what is. This is again the deep state covering up their murder of a person who could blow the lid off their corrupt activities. Chalk up another one for the Clinton family and a few others who are into pedophilia and sex trafficking which is endemic in DC. This is a long analysis but the situation is much to characteristic of the dreadful actions and corrupt dealings of our so called government. Time to replace the entire establishment with people with at least some ethics. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**COMPETES Act Is the Build Back Better Backup Plan**[*Congressman Bruce Westerman*](https://townhall.com/capitol-voices/congressmanbrucewesterman/) *Posted: Feb 04, 2022 12:33 PM* In less than two weeks, the U.S. government runs out of money to fund necessary programs. Prices continue to rise for consumer products of all kinds, from gasoline to chicken. Millions of Americans have left the workforce and businesses are desperately searching for employees. Students and their families in Blue states across the country are still dealing with school district policy dictated by teachers’ unions that want schools closed. These are real problems facing the American people, but instead of addressing these pressing issues, House Democrats passed a nearly 3,000-page bill to spend over $300 billion on giveaways to China, unions, and “Green New Deal” radicals. Rather than tackle the issues that are forcing Arkansans to tighten their belts, President Biden and Congressional Democrats leave hardworking Americans to fend for themselves in favor of the “America COMPETES Act.”  
 Rather than a plan to combat China’s increasing influence or hold the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) accountable for its innumerable human rights violations, this bill is a multi-thousand page liberal wish list pouring $8 billion into an unaccountable United Nations climate slush fund that has already sent $100 million to the CCP, gives handouts to labor unions, increases costs for deploying rural broadband, and spends $22 billion on a program that encourages Americans to stay out of the workforce. Many believe that this bill is weak on China, but it’s worse; it’s simply not about China at all. Though marketed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi as legislation that seeks to counter China’s increasingly malign activities in the cyber and intellectual property arenas, this bill uses the words “climate” and “coral reef” more than “China.” This bill is the Build Back Better Back-Up Plan. When the big-spending BBB was killed by the Senate, Speaker Pelosi threw together this second-rate do-over bill as a consolation prize to a struggling president. The American people deserve better.  
 The few times the so-called COMPETES Act addresses China, the bill outlines policy to boost China’s economy by giving priority to the CCP as a supplier of the United States’ critical minerals by prohibiting our own mining. This bill lays the groundwork for a centralized government dictating where money should go. The way to combat China is not to become China, and it’s certainly not to hand China more money.  
 China is a very real threat to the United States that must be addressed. The U.S. has become overly reliant on China for everything from [antibiotics](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/business/economy/coronavirus-china-trump-drugs.html__;!!Bg5easoyC-OII2vlEqY8mTBrtW-N4OJKAQ!av5u_vra1eBCk9YejJ4CAkT20xQWbUZW0MxyjaEOhRR228NgfLGNVylU2L3wLLrJqKLiD4A$), to critical minerals, to everyday consumer goods and this latest bill doubles down on that reliance. While this bill pours billions into “green” solar energy projects, the Biden administration attacks mining of critical minerals and rare Earth elements in the U.S. Now, we’re forced to import those raw materials from China and other questionable regimes around the world who use slave labor to mine critical minerals and build items like solar panels. Planning for a new, cleaner future shouldn’t line the pockets of the very nation that is making the environment worse, skirting international trade rules, and stealing U.S. intellectual property. China benefits from the Democrats’ $3 billion solar energy plan.   
 Thankfully, there is a better way forward. In September 2020, the Congressional China Task Force released a [report](https://gop-foreignaffairs.house.gov/blog/china-task-force-report/) with more than 400 forward-leaning recommendations on how the U.S. can successfully counter the CCP. Two-thirds of those recommendations had bipartisan support. The House has already passed measures this Congress to hold China accountable for its human rights abuses, and there is strong bipartisan support for a bill bolstering the U.S. semiconductor industry to specifically counter China’s market share. Instead of championing any of those bipartisan measures, Speaker Pelosi pushes a bill with radical provisions she knows Republicans can never support and that won’t ever make it to President Biden’s desk.   
 House Republicans are ready to work across the aisle to address the CCP’s growing threat, but this bill is nothing more than Build Back Better leftovers. It is time President Biden reins in the leftist radicals in the party he supposedly leads, and focuses on the real needs of the American people. <https://townhall.com/capitol-voices/congressmanbrucewesterman/2022/02/04/competes-act-is-the-build-back-better-backup-plan-n2602840>   
[Sometimes you would just like to throttle the dimwits in DC – rdb]

**Vaccine Derangement Syndrome (VDS)***By* [*Sidney Secular*](https://newswithviews.com/author/sidney/)*|February 5th, 2022* Today we have acronyms for everything; this is probably a throwback to America’s military history as such means of ID (identification) are favored among soldiers. In this article I provide a definition of a “disease” afflicting large portions of the populations of both America and the rest of the world that is making everybody more than a little daffy – and dangerous for those unafflicted.  
 VDS is an easily recognizable condition that is an unfortunate admixture of psychology, sociology and physical conditions in which the afflicted blindly follow government edicts however lacking in sense and wisdom these edicts may be. These “instructions” frequently violate both the rights and heath requirements of the individual as well as being contrary to the good that the individual is told these “instructions” provide. Many Americans have come to believe that any medical directive issued by “an authority” whether in the health field or of some health related government entity, is absolute!  
 One very important aspect of this syndrome is the unfailing belief that such directives are based on real “science”even when those who question them are themselves physicians and scientists. Indeed, the term “science” has been politicized to the point at which conclusions are determined first and then the “research” is manipulated to produce the predetermined conclusion – if in fact research is conducted at all. Meanwhile, those afflicted with VDS submit themselves and even their children – born and unborn – to spurious – and experimental – “cures,” thus becoming experimental tests subjects without even knowing that that is what they are.  
 This use of hapless human guinea pigs is forbidden by the Nuremberg Code passed after the trial of Nazi doctors who used unwilling prisoners in their medical experiments.The ten points of the code given in the section of the judges’ verdict and were entitled “Permissible Medical Experiments:”  
 The voluntary consent of the human subject is ***absolutely essential***. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision. This latter element requires that before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject there should be made known to him the nature, duration, and purpose of the experiment; the method and means by which it is to be conducted; all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment. The duty and responsibility for ascertaining the quality of the consent rests upon each individual who initiates, directs, or engages in the experiment. It is a personal duty and responsibility which may not be delegated to another with impunity.  
 The experiment should be such as to yield fruitful results for the good of society, unprocurable by other methods or means of study, and not random and unnecessary in nature.  
 The experiment should be so designed and based on the results of animal experimentation and a knowledge of the natural history of the disease or other problem under study that the anticipated results will justify the performance of the experiment.  
 The experiment should be so conducted as to avoid all unnecessary physical and mental suffering and injury.  
 No experiment should be conducted where there is an *a priori* reason to believe that death or disabling injury will occur; except, perhaps, in those experiments where the experimental physicians also serve as subjects.  
 The degree of risk to be taken should never exceed that determined by the humanitarian importance of the problem to be solved by the experiment.  
 Proper preparations should be made and adequate facilities provided to protect the experimental subject against even remote possibilities of injury, disability, or death.  
 The experiment should be conducted only by scientifically qualified persons. The highest degree of skill and care should be required through all stages of the experiment of those who conduct or engage in the experiment.  
 During the course of the experiment the human subject should be at liberty to bring the experiment to an end if he has reached the physical or mental state where continuation of the experiment seems to him to be impossible.  
 During the course of the experiment the scientist in charge must be prepared to terminate the experiment at any stage, if he has probable cause to believe, in the exercise of the good faith, superior skill and careful judgment required of him that a continuation of the experiment is likely to result in injury, disability, or death to the experimental subject.  
 It is interesting to note that today in Germany, efforts are being made to *nullify* this code as it directly reflects the ongoing situation of those who take these “vaccines” without understanding that, like the victims of the Nazis, they, too are participating in medical experimentation!  
 Many of those afflicted with VDS unfortunately have attained prestigious positions of influence in government, the religious sector, sports and entertainment, academics, gurus of technology and military leadership circles. Alas, there do not appear to be large numbers of politicians and bureaucrats willing to donate their lives to “science” but that is probably because they know very well the risk involved.  
 However, as far as politics is concerned, it would certainly appear that Democrat voters are particularly beset with VBS– at least with regards to their opinion of those of us who apparently are not and therefore reject “the jab!” A recent Heartland Institute and Rasmussen Report national poll of January 13, 2022 shows that among Democrats, 55% support fining Americans who refuse the jab, 59% support house arrest of the unvaccinated, 48% support imprisoning *those who question vaccine efficacy on social media*, 45% support internment camps for the unvaccinated, 47% support government surveillance of the unvaccinated, and 29% support the State removing children from unvaccinated parents especially if those children have not been vaccinated. VDS affliction has apparently reached critical condition among our Social Justice warriors just as the percentage of the clinically sane in that group is falling precipitously! From these statistics, it is obvious that these deadly “vaccines” are even more dangerous than knowledgeable people first thought! For whether one willingly embraces spurious “gene therapy” and nano-technology designed to create AI “transhumans” or depopulate the world, *a la* the call of Bill Gates and his ilk, or, in the alternative, one stands up for individual liberty and refuses to participate in mass murder, it would appear that the results don’t favor those of us who do not have VDS. <https://newswithviews.com/vaccine-derangement-syndrome-vds/>   
   
**The Covid Narrative Is Collapsing, but We’re Not Out of the Woods!***By* [*Steven Yates*](https://newswithviews.com/author/steveny/)*|February 5th, 2022* The official covid-19(84) narrative — that mask-wearing and social distancing are effective, that destructive lockdowns were necessary, that the mRNA injections are safe and effective — is collapsing all across the Northern Hemisphere.  
 *Collapsing* here means: *losing credibility with critical segments of populations*.  
 Efforts at mandates, governmental or corporate, are being resisted. People including health care workers who were on the front lines in 2020 are quitting their jobs rather than being jabbed because an employer demands it. Not a majority, but enough to make a dent.  
 As for governments, gradually over the past several months one nation after another has seen mass protests: [Australia](https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2021/11/20/nationwide-anti-vax-protests/), [New Zealand](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/09/new-zealand-anti-vaccine-mandate-protests-police-and-photographer-attacked), [Austria](https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2022/01/29/675781/Europe-Austria-mandatory-vaccination-protest-France-vaccine-pass), [France](https://www.france24.com/en/france/20220108-anti-vax-protesters-in-france-tell-macron-we-ll-piss-you-off), [the Netherlands](https://euobserver.com/tickers/154100), [Italy](https://www.wantedinrome.com/news/italy-covid-green-pass-no-vax-protests-rome-milan.html), [Greece](https://neoskosmos.com/en/2021/08/30/news/greece/violence-at-syntagma-square-anti-vax-protests/), [the Czech Republic](https://www.yahoo.com/news/thousands-czechs-protest-against-covid-191233903.html), others. Countries such as [Denmark](https://www.technocracy.news/denmark-ends-almost-all-covid-restrictions/?fbclid=IwAR2zpDKlrJ4aWxTbZeYL-TsxudOj7dT1DduMa88W6Q4KjRH9VSNgzbb2Gr0) are following [the U.K.](https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/u-k-lifts-covid-19-restrictions-says-omicron-wave-has-peaked-1.5745946) and ending restrictions. (Sweden never had significant restrictions at all, and did not suffer a proportionately larger number of “cases” of covid.)  
 Regime Media is trying as hard as it can to ignore all this. What it can’t ignore, it denounces as “misinformation.”  
 Vaccine mandates are under attack. We’ve seen [the convoy of tens of thousands of truckers that converged on Ottawa, the Canadian capitol](https://nypost.com/2022/01/29/trucker-freedom-convoy-set-to-protest-justin-trudeaus-vaccine-mandates/), at the end of January. They drove Trudeau into hiding. They have the power to shut down the city if the Canadian government doesn’t back off its mandates.  
 [A similar movement has formed on social media in the U.S.](https://citizenfreepress.com/breaking/u-s-truckers-announce-plan-for-freedom-convoy-to-washington-dc/), and might be ready to roll up into the Bidenistas’ faces on or around the start of March.  
 Truckers are essential! Without them, goods do not get moved from Point A to Point B! This is universal in the so-called developed world. Truckers are learning how much power they have!  
 What is becoming clear: to maintain the approved narrative, *governments are going to have to go full Nazi! Because the only thing likely to stop this grassroots movement for health freedom is a brutal crackdown!*   
 There are people in the EU I wouldn’t put this past. Parts of [China](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/24/china-zero-covid-lockdowns-cny-holiday-impact-supply-chains-ports.html) are in lockdown mode, moreover, because of a “zero-covid” policy there. If the Bidenistas tried this, though, with all the talk about whether the country is on its way to “Civil War II,” they’d be asking for this very thing! There are enough fed up people out in the hinterlands!  
 Rational people are fed up, that is, with measures that make no sense outside the assumption that a globalist technocratic “world order” based on total surveillance and control (and depopulation) is the goal, supported by political / Regime Media disinformation, gaslighting, and as much censorship of dissenting voices as is possible.  
 Give it a few more months, and the pushback might just work!  
 I’m predicting that if it does, we’ll not see more actual cases of covid than we would have seen anyway!  
 We might even figure out what a “case” is. Is it a positive PCR test (with no symptoms of any kind)? Is it actual sickness? Hospitalization? Does anyone know?  
 But should this happen and covid gradually becomes yesterday’s news, *let’s not rest on our laurels under the assumption that this is over!*  
 I agree with [Paul Craig Roberts](https://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2022/01/28/we-have-had-a-narrow-escape-from-tyranny-but-the-war-on-freedom-is-not-over/), reviewing the just-published [*States of Emergency: Keeping the Global Population In Check* by Kees Van Der Pijl](https://www.amazon.com/States-Emergency-Keeping-Global-Population/dp/1949762483). Van Der Pijl is a Dutch political scientist specializing in international relations and the power systems behind them. He has authored numerous books.  
 Roberts:  
 **Van Der Pijl answers the question so many people have of why and how a fake “deadly pandemic” was orchestrated with worldwide participation in the fraud. He shows that the event was long in the making by a global elite consisting of philanthropists such as Bill Gates, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Wellcome Trust, elite organizations such as the World Economic Forum, tech companies and multi-billionaire owners, Fauci at NIH, CDC, FDA, WHO, pharmaceutical companies and lobbyists, and elite organizations and groups created for the purpose of concentrating power and advancing and protecting the global elites’ rule by using fear to condition the masses to being controlled and deprived of a voice and alternative explanations. I had been thinking along these lines, but lacked Van Der Pijl’s detailed knowledge of the personalities, organizations and groups and the interactions and cooperation between them. He gives us the story. It was an elaborate exercise in massive deception and censorship that was able to discredit the world’s most renowned medical scientists and to elevate pure fiction to fact and public policy.**  
 **We owe it to ourselves to read *States of Emergency* in order to come to terms with the fact that we are ruled by people devoid of integrity to whom truth is an inconvenience and who are concerned solely with their control and power.**  
 **We need to read the book also to understand how things really work, how decisions are really made, how careers are made and ended by whether or not you serve the narrative and how well, how regulatory agencies such as FDA, NIH, CDC, WHO are in fact marketing departments for Big Pharma, how politicians’ positions are dictated by the sources of their campaign funds, why universities and the media must function as Ministries of Propaganda for the ruling elites and their narratives, how Fauci and Big Pharma control content in medical journals via grants to medical researchers. Van Der Pijl writes that pharmaceutical industry research grants make the industry the co-author of many articles and that more than half of all *The Lancet*‘s revenues come from pharmaceutical companies orders of reprints of articles supportive of their products. Van Der Pijl writes “According to the former editor of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, who had 20 years of experience, it is simply no longer possible to believe much of the published clinical research.”**  
 As I noted last week, *real medical science has stopped*.  
 It has stopped because *what does not serve money and power is simply not pursued, much less published.*   
 Why should anyone expect covid to be any different?  
 The plandemic was years in the making, *and the fight against the powers behind it is not over!*  
 What we must remember:*we are dealing with psychopaths, and with organizations which stand to lose billions if the mRNA injections and “boosters” stop rolling out!*  
 In my [last piece](https://newswithviews.com/steven-yates-who-am-i-and-what-do-i-stand-for/) I mentioned the possibility of governments falling before this is over. If [deaths](https://www.globalresearch.ca/jaccuse-governments-worldwide-lying-you-people-populations-they-purportedly-serve/5750650) accelerate over the next year or two or three, this will be doubly true—as not just the remaining non injected will be standing firm but the *injected*, terrified and furious, will turn on the politicians and health bureaucrats they trusted.  
 The danger is that they won’t be looking at the big picture. They will see their national elites as villains (which they are) *but not the super elite power system behind them.*  
 Bringing down a government is far easier, moreover, than putting something viable in its place. The U.S. should have learned this from its disastrous misadventure in Iraq.  
 When civil strife erupts, *GloboCorp’s minions could well be waiting in the wings, with promises (and money!), ready to restore order*.  
 If enough lives have been sufficiently disrupted by unemployment, shortages, rolling blackouts, or worse, they might welcome someone who promises to “fix” things.This is the absolute *worst* thing the world’s masses could do, but I can see it happening.  
 What will be installed will be the “new normal” of the technocratic dictatorship that was wanted all along, not the freedom the non injected want.  
**Hegelian dialectic:*crisis à reaction à response!***   
 Moneyed / powered players foment a worldwide crisis using whatever power plays and scare tactics are necessary. The crisis provokes a *Do-something!* reaction. The moneyed / powered players move in with what they wanted all along!  
 *How do we prevent this?*  
 The only thing to do is what we are doing now, which is to fight the narrative war as hard as we can, wherever we can, going outside the deplatforming and censorship to the extent we can.  
 *But even should we win, we’re not out of the woods!*  
 Psychopaths, remember?  
 Suppose the globalists figure out that they might lose.  
 There’s one thing we can be sure of: *they won’t simply crawl into the nearest corner and weep!*   
 Consider [this creepy warning](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/01/creepy-bill-gates-gives-warning-pandemics-far-worse-covid-19-calls-government-increase-vaccine-supplies/) by “creepy Bill Gates.”  
 Around the start of last November, he made a [statement](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/bill-gates-smallpox-terror-attack-b1958789.html) about “bioterrorism.” He specifically mentioned smallpox—  
 *Wait a minute, Yates! Did you say smallpox? Wasn’t that eradicated?*   
 Yes, supposedly, but the fact that Bill Gates made that statement indicates that it is something GloboCorp might be thinking about.  
 The very week of Gates’s comment, suspicious vials [were found in a Merck lab in Pennsylvania](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/fbi-cdc-investigating-vials-labeled-smallpox-found-at-merck-lab-in-philadelphia/ar-AAQRhaT). No one can account for what they were doing there, although we were “assured” that nothing escaped and that public safety was never compromised.  
 Two entities in the world can legally store variola, the virus that causes smallpox. One is the CDC. The other is the State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology (the VECTOR Institute) in Koltsovo, Russia.  
 The scenario: a genetically engineered variant of variola is released in a heavily trafficked location (e.g., a men’s room) in the international airport of a major city.  
 A genetically engineered variant would evade whatever protections afforded by the smallpox vax most of us probably got when we were children.  
 Smallpox has a long incubation period: in most cases ten days to two weeks.  
 Which means: *anew strain could spread everywhere before anyone knew anything was wrong!*  
 Smallpox has a mortality rate of 30 percent, moreover, as opposed to covid’s mortality rate of under 0.5 percent for everyone under 70.  
 Anyone who thinks we’ve been in a health emergency hasn’t seen anything compared to the panic that would ensue!  
 But could GloboCorp’s denizens ensure that *they* would be protected from their own vile creation?  
 I have no idea, of course.  
 They have at least two other options.  
 One is a massive cyber attack able to shut down large portions of the grid, including the Internet, possibly for weeks that could stretch into months. The attack would be blamed on Russia.  
 We’ve already seen [one very suspicious event](https://news.yahoo.com/cyber-attack-shuts-down-major-162027241.html) which could have been a test.  
 The point is, we’re dependent on the Internet. Were a cyber attack to shut down Internet access, we would find out at once just *how* dependent!  
 Imagine your laptop or phone suddenly turned into a paper weight, and you get the idea.  
 Again, anyone who thought the lockdowns were destructive hasn’t seen anything compared to what being knocked offline for an extended period would do. Even in covid lockdowns you could still follow national and world events, work and get paid remotely, attend online classes, etc.  
 An objection to this scenario is that the superelite is just as dependent on the Internet as we peasants. Unless they have a “hyper-internet” waiting behind the scenes, a “meta” era technology.  
 It wouldn’t surprise me any, but we have no real way of knowing.  
 The other nuclear option—literally!—is fomenting all-out war with Russia: a war for which most Americans have been “prepped” by Regime Media for years now. It would most likely start with a false flag attack in Ukraine.  
 I don’t think the present-day West could win a conventional war with Russia. I doubt that an army led by a guy who whines about not understanding “white rage” could stand up against a country of strategists whose universities produce scientists (the real thing!) and engineers, not gender studies majors and “systemic racism” obsessives.  
 Nukes, then?  
 Read [*The Road*](https://www.cormacmccarthy.com/works/the-road/), by Cormac McCarthy!  
 The point is, as dangerous as the world has probably seemed, if the psychopaths who run GloboCorp sincerely believe they are going to lose not just this battle but that this, their most determined effort to establish conditions for a global control grid, could go down in flames, there is no telling what they might do!  
 Things could get really ugly, really fast!  
 Steven Yates’s new book *What Should Philosophy Do? A Theory* (Wipf and Stock, 2021) is available [here](https://www.amazon.com/What-Should-Philosophy-Do-Theory/dp/1725263750/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1636028989&sr=1-10) and [here](https://wipfandstock.com/9781725263758/what-should-philosophy-do/).  
 Do you wish me to continue? Please consider supporting my work on [Patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com/stevenyates). <https://newswithviews.com/the-covid-narrative-is-collapsing-but-were-not-out-of-the-woods/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Islamic Movement official: 'All of the Jews will be evicted from Palestine'**

***Islamic Movement official: May 2021 riots were 'religious war,' Jews will be evicted from 'all of Palestine, from the River to the Sea.'***

*Israel National News 05.02.22 20:47*

The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA) on Friday published a comprehensive study on the Islamic Movement, the United Arab List (Ra'am), and UAL leader MK Mansour Abbas.

The study brought quotes from articles written by Sheikh Ra'ad Badir, director of the Islamic Movement's Institute for Rulings on Sharia Law and Islamic Studies, to which the UAL is subject.

In one article, Badir wrote, "[The events] which we experienced during the month of Ramadan [May] in the year 2021 were a religious war, 100% (11 days), and it is just one percent of what is hidden in the larger religious war."

"If the larger religious war will be caused by Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, it will be worse than anyone can imagine and it will end with the eviction of all Jews from Palestine, from all of Palestine, from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea, and the number of Muslim sacrifices will be greater than the number of Muslims who were killed in the past 1,500 years, since we are talking about Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Muslims will protect the holy Quran and their faith with their lives."

Badir's comments are in direct contradiction to claims by senior officials in the Arab sector, who claim that the May 2021 [riots](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/306177) were sourced in discrimination against Arabs or the presence of Torah "seed group" communities in mixed cities. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321768>

**Ahuyya Sandak protest: 200 demonstrate at entrance to Jerusalem**

***12 people arrested during demonstration against closing of case against officers involved in teen's death.***

*Israel National News 06.02.22 01:39*

About 200 people demonstrated on Saturday night at the entrance to Jerusalem, in protest of the killing of Ahuvya Sandak and the closing of the case against the police officers involved in the incident.

During the demonstration, the protesters blocked the entrance to Jerusalem several times. At least 12 people were detained by police, including a woman with a baby.

One young woman was ticketed by the police during the demonstration for blocking traffic, and the other demonstrators collected the money for her and covered the cost of the ticket within a few minutes.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit more than a week ago [closed the case](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321259) against the four police officers who were involved in the chase in the Binyamin region, in which 16-year-old Sandak was killed.

Mandelblit stated that no criminal liability could be attributed to the police, since according to the evidence "there was justification for the pursuit of the vehicle which Sandak was in."

Mandelblit stressed that "there is no basis in the evidence to claim that the police officers sought to intentionally 'hit' the fleeing vehicle." He noted that even after examining the opinions of traffic examiners, including the examiner hired on behalf of the Sandak family, "it is not possible to determine which of the vehicles deviated and caused a collision during the chase." <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321778>

**Israel chooses Eurovision representative**

***X Factor star Michael Ben David has been chosen to represent Israel at the 2022 Eurovision Song Competition.***

*Israel National News 06.02.22 00:13*

Michael Ben David Micha Loubaton

Michael Ben David has been declared Israel's representative for the Eurovision Song Competition, earning the title with his song 'I.M. on 'The X Factor'. The world's largest singing competition will be broadcast on May 14 by Kan in Israel.

"This song is dedicated to everyone who has ever felt that there is nothing to get up for in the morning and felt useless. There are no rules for anything, we just need to trust ourselves and remember that everything is temporary. Keep imagining and working," Ben David commented. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321777>

**20-year-old man stabbed at restaurant dies of his wounds**

***Young man brought to hospital after restaurant stabbing is declared dead.***

*Israel National News 05.02.22 21:12*

A young man of about 20 years old was stabbed Saturday night at the Ezra and Sons restaurant in Azor. The victim was evacuated to Tel Hashomer Hospital, where staff fought to save him, but were later forced to declare his death.

The stabbing was initially reported to Magen David Adom (MDA) at 6:08p.m. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321770>

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**02/05/2022 NEWS**

**Busting Myths about Jerusalem: The Real Old City Walls?**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHPQrAF6ZlI**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHPQrAF6ZlI)

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| **"Is there any reason why the American people should be taxed to guarantee the debts of banks, any more than they should be taxed to guarantee the debts of other institutions, including merchants, the industries, and the mills of the country?" -- Senator Carter Glass (1858-1946) Newspaper publisher, US Senator (D-VA), author of the Banking Act of 1933, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury under President Woodrow Wilson.** |

**Read the Prophets & PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!**

**That is the only hope for this nation!**

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| **Please**  **Remember**  **These**  **Folks**  **In**  **Prayer-**  **Check often**  **They**  **Change!** | **Pray that the world would WAKE UP! Time for a worldwide repentance!**  **ALL US soldiers fighting for our freedom around the world**  **Pray for those in our government to repent of their wicked corrupt ways.**  **Pray for TS bat Y - Returned home but still ill**  **Pray for BB – Severe sciatic needing procedure.**  **Pray for TH - Knee and Blood pressure problems.**  **Pray for EL – Had clot embolized to brain – successful ‘clot buster’ but long road to go.**  **Pray for BB – Severe West Nile Fever –still not mobile- improving!**  **Pray for RBH – cancer recurrence**  **Pray for GB – bad reaction from Cancer drug**  **Pray for Ella – Child with serious problems**  **Pray that The Holy One will lead you in Your preparations for handling the world problems. – Have YOU made any preparations**? |

Exodus 6:24And the sons of Korah: Assir, and Elkanah, and Abiasaph; these are the families of the Korahites. 25And Eleazar Aaron's son took him one of the daughters of Putiel to wife; and she bore him Phinehas. These are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites according to their families. 26These are that Aaron and Moses, to whom the LORD said: 'Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their hosts.'

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| |  | | --- | | **Interesting That Mortality is Much Higher in Israel Than Less ‘Vaccinated’ Palestine - Dr. Robert Malone**  [**https://www.bitchute.com/video/qpQUa8YstuxA/**](https://www.bitchute.com/video/qpQUa8YstuxA/)  **3 very interesting minutes.**  **The Jerusalem Report Season 2 Episode 3:**  **Graphene Discovery And The Fall Of Democracy**  [**https://live.childrenshealthdefense.org/shows/the-jerusalem-report**](https://live.childrenshealthdefense.org/shows/the-jerusalem-report)  **This is 50 min but a most revealing discussion of why the JAB is toxic!**  **Dr Reiner Fuellmich and Viviane Fischer press conference**  **– UPDATE ON COVID-19 NUREMBERG 2.0 CRIMINA**  [**https://tapnewswire.com/2022/01/dr-reiner-fuellmich-and-viviane-fischer-press-conference-update-on-covid-19-nuremberg-2-0-crimina/**](https://tapnewswire.com/2022/01/dr-reiner-fuellmich-and-viviane-fischer-press-conference-update-on-covid-19-nuremberg-2-0-crimina/)  **This is 15 minutes of the plans to fight the deep state. – worth the watch** | |

**US waives sanctions on Iran’s civil atomic program in bid to advance nuke talks**

***Ahead of possible make-or-break meetings, State Department says move ‘also designed to serve US nonproliferation and nuclear safety interests and constrain’ Tehran’s nuclear work***

*By* [*Matthew Lee*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/matthew-lee/) *5 February 2022, 12:34 am*

A picture containing table, person, indoor, conference room

Description automatically generated WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Friday restored some sanctions relief to Iran’s atomic program as talks aimed at salvaging the languishing 2015 nuclear deal enter a critical phase.  
 As US negotiators head back to Vienna for what could be a make-or-break session, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed several sanctions waivers related to Iran’s civilian nuclear activities. The move reverses the Trump administration’s decision to rescind them.  
 The waivers are intended to entice Iran to return to compliance with the 2015 deal that it has been violating since former president Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and re-imposed US sanctions. Iran says it is not respecting the terms of the deal because the US pulled out of it first. Iran has demanded the restoration of all sanctions relief it was promised under the deal to return to compliance. [So how do these idiots proposed that they will return to the 2015 status when they are reported to be within literally weeks to a couple months of becoming a nuclear power? That is almost as disgusting as the vile and evil Obamanation shipping billions of money to these critters just to get the get the ignorant useless agreement in the first place. Once again when you think you can’t see anything more wicked and evil this group of stooges goes one step further. – rdb]  
 Friday’s move lifts the sanctions threat against foreign countries and companies from Russia, China and Europe that had been cooperating with non-military parts of Iran’s nuclear program under the terms of the 2015 deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.  
 The Trump administration had ended the so-called “civ-nuke” waivers in May 2020 as part of its “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran that began when Trump withdrew the US from the deal in 2018, complaining that it was the worst diplomatic agreement ever negotiated and gave Iran a pathway to developing the bomb.  
 As a presidential candidate, Joe Biden made a US return to the nuclear deal a priority, and his administration has pursued that goal but there has been little progress toward that end since he took office a year ago. Administration officials said the waivers were being restored to help push the Vienna negotiations forward.  
  
 US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, speaks to the media before meeting with Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau, not shown, at the State Department in Washington, February 4, 2022. (Nicholas Kamm/Pool via AP)  
 “The waiver with respect to these activities is designed to facilitate discussions that would help to close a deal on a mutual return to full implementation of the JCPOA and lay the groundwork for Iran’s return to performance of its JCPOA commitments,” the State Department said in a notice to Congress that announced the move.  
 “It is also designed to serve US nonproliferation and nuclear safety interests and constrain Iran’s nuclear activities,” the department said. “It is being issued as a matter of policy discretion with these objectives in mind, and not pursuant to a commitment or as part of a quid pro quo. We are focused on working with partners and allies to counter the full range of threats that Iran poses.” A copy of the State Department notice and the actual waivers signed by Blinken were obtained by The Associated Press.  
 The waivers permit foreign countries and companies to work on civilian projects at Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power station, its Arak heavy water plant and the Tehran Research Reactor. Former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo had revoked the waivers in May, 2020, accusing Iran of “nuclear extortion” for continuing and expanding work at the sites. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-waves-sanctions-on-irans-civil-atomic-program-in-bid-to-facilitate-nuke-talks/>

**400 Israeli activists plant olive trees near Palestinian West Bank village**

***Planting event in Burin comes 2 weeks after settler attack against activists; army keeps Jewish extremists away; Palestinian cars, homes vandalized near Nablus in separate incident***

*By* [*Emanuel Fabian*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/emanuel-fabian/) *Today, 3:50 pmUpdated at 8:19 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/FKvetdjXIAAoV9y.jpg)

Hundreds of left-wing Israeli activists arrive to help Palestinians plant trees near the village of Burin in the West Bank, Febbruary 4, 2022. (Hamutal Sadot, Rabbis for Human Rights/Courtesy)

Some 400 left-wing Israeli activists turned up Friday morning to assist Palestinian farmers plant olive trees near the West Bank village of Burin, two weeks after an attack by extremist settlers there left several people wounded.

“This picture of hundreds of Israelis, including those injured by Jewish terrorists, returning to the scene of the attack, two weeks after it occurred, represents a significant victory,” Avi Dabush, head of Rabbis for Human Rights, said in a statement.

“We declared that we will not give in to violence and that we would return to the field to stand in solidarity with Palestinian olive farmers against those who regularly attack them. And that is what we did,” he said.

According to the organization, several settlers from the illegal Givat Ronen outpost attempted to reach the area where the planting took place, but were rebuffed by the army, with which the event was coordinated.

The military said in a statement that there was “friction” between the activists and troops. “Security forces operated at the scene to maintain order, and to prevent incidents of violence,” the statement read.

The Israel Defense Forces said one activist was detained for allegedly assaulting a soldier, and was then taken to be arrested by police officers. “The IDF views any incident of violence against security forces seriously,” it added.

הבוקר בגבעת רונן: מחאה של כ-400 פעילי שמאל בעקבות האירוע האלים לפני שבועיים. אחד הפעילים עוכב בידי מג"ב לאחר שעל פי החשד התקרב לחייל צהל, דחף אותו ונתן לו אגרוף בפנים [pic.twitter.com/20ezMSgE3R](https://t.co/20ezMSgE3R)

— שחר גליק (@glick\_sh) [February 4, 2022](https://twitter.com/glick_sh/status/1489561439450841088?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Troops had briefly blocked the convoy of cars and buses for unknown reasons.

Several lawmakers were present at Friday’s planting event, including the Joint List’s Ahmad Tibi and Meretz’s Gaby Lasky and Mossi Raz.

The lawmakers later visited the evacuated illegal outpost of Evyatar, after news broke Wednesday morning that former attorney general Avichai Mandelblit had approved a compromise deal between the government and settlers to legalize the outpost in his final hours in office.

The move, which is hotly controversial among the ideologically diverse government coalition, still requires the final approval of Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

“We arrived at Evyatar to demand its immediate evacuation,” Raz said on Twitter.

הגענו לאביתר לדרוש את פינויו לאלתר [pic.twitter.com/jcLbKjYdnO](https://t.co/jcLbKjYdnO)

— Mossi Raz | מוסי רז | موسي راز ???? (@mossi\_raz) [February 4, 2022](https://twitter.com/mossi_raz/status/1489567609146290176?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Also on Friday, in the Palestinian West Bank town of as-Sawiya near Nablus, at least six cars had tires punctured, and graffiti was sprayed on homes that said, “Our land for our nation,” and “Revenge will come one day,” police said. An investigation has been opened.

Incidents of vandalism against Palestinians and Israeli security forces are commonly referred to as “price tag” attacks, with perpetrators claiming that they are retaliation for Palestinian violence or government policies seen as hostile to the settler movement.

However, arrests of perpetrators are rare and rights groups say that convictions are even more unusual, with the majority of charges in such cases being dropped.

תמונות: מועצת א-סאוויה [pic.twitter.com/1jBYTqWWvw](https://t.co/1jBYTqWWvw)

— Lior Amihai (@lioramihai) [February 4, 2022](https://twitter.com/lioramihai/status/1489582043323371528?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

On January 21, masked [settlers from the outpost attacked Palestinians and left-wing Israeli activists](https://www.timesofisrael.com/settler-leaders-horrified-as-dozens-of-jewish-extremists-carry-out-w-bank-assault/) with clubs and stones, wounding at least six and burning a car, according to police, witnesses and footage from the scene.

No arrests have been reported. The Shin Bet is involved in the investigation, the security agency confirmed last week.

טוב, לא תתי אדם. אז איך תקראו להם? [pic.twitter.com/XZkfk5XLQs](https://t.co/XZkfk5XLQs)

— Yair Golan – יאיר גולן (@YairGolan1) [January 21, 2022](https://twitter.com/YairGolan1/status/1484471348185505793?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The violence [drew denunciations from across the political spectrum](https://www.timesofisrael.com/coalition-members-condemn-settler-attack-with-some-calling-to-raze-outposts/), with several coalition lawmakers calling for the demolition of the outpost from where the assailants allegedly came.

Israeli security officials have warned that violence by Jewish extremists in the West Bank has spiked in recent months. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/400-israeli-activists-plant-olive-trees-near-palestinian-west-bank-village/> [It never ceases to amaze me how little the liberal groups understand about the History of Israel and the command of The Holy One to occupy the land that He has given them. – rdb]

**Meeting American envoy, IDF chief sorry for ‘moral’ failing in death of US citizen**

***In 1st meeting with Tom Nides, IDF chief presents ambassador with overview of regional security situation; they also discuss Iran nuclear threat, deepening bilateral cooperation***

*By* [*Jacob Magid*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/jacob-magid/) *Today, 5:55 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/WhatsApp_Image_2022-02-04_at_16.13.02-e1643990754286.jpeg)

US Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides meets, left, with IDF chief of staff Aviv Kohavi at the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv on February 4, 2022. (Israel Defense Forces)

In his first meeting with US Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides on Friday, IDF chief of staff Aviv Kohavi expressed regret over the death of a 78-year-old Palestinian-American man who suffered a heart attack after being bound, gagged and abandoned at a construction site in the middle of winter by Israeli soldiers last month.

Kohavi “made clear that this was a grave moral incident that is contrary to the values of the IDF,” an Israeli military statement on the meeting said, reiterating the one issued on the findings of the IDF’s [internal probe](https://www.timesofisrael.com/soldiers-left-elderly-palestinian-american-to-die-in-ethical-failure-idf-probe/) into the January 12 incident death of Omar As’ad.

Kohavi also confirmed to Nides that a criminal investigation into the incident is ongoing and that disciplinary actions had already been taken against the officers involved. Two officers were removed from their positions and a third was formally censured.

As’ad’s death sparked a sharp response from the Biden administration, with the State Department emphasizing in the multiple statements issued on the matter that it takes the safety of its nationals abroad very seriously.

Even after the IDF’s internal probe, the US has continued to call for a “thorough criminal investigation.”

“The United States expects a thorough criminal investigation and full accountability in this case, and we welcome receiving additional information on these efforts as soon as possible,” a State Department statement said.

A group of Democratic lawmakers has also sounded off on As’ad’s death, demanding an investigation and expressing concern over Israeli military practices in the West Bank more broadly.

Also during their meeting, Kohavi briefed Nides on the regional security situation, and the two discussed shared challenges in the Mideast, “foremost being the threat of the Iranian regime,” the IDF readout said. They also raised opportunities for deepening security cooperation in the Middle East.

A day earlier, Defense Minister Benny Gantz visited the United States Navy’s 5th Fleet base in Bahrain, using the opportunity to hail ties between the three countries amid growing threats from Iran.

A group of men walking

Description automatically generated with medium confidence Gantz’s visit came as the 5th Fleet launched its biennial International Maritime Exercise, known by its abbreviation IMX, a massive international drill with participants from around the world, including countries with which Israel does not have formal ties, like Saudi Arabia.

Israeli officials see a growing potential for formal ties with Saudi Arabia, as the regional power tracks the benefits of such relations currently being enjoyed by the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, which normalized ties with Jerusalem in September 2020.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz, center, along with Israeli Navy chief David Salama, left, meet with the head of the US Navy’s 5th Fleet, Admiral Brad Cooper, in front of the USS Cole in Bahrain on February 3, 2022. (Ariel Hermoni/Defense Ministry)

This thaw with Riyadh could also be seen in what is becoming an increasingly common, but still diplomatically sensitive, event: Gantz made his trip to Bahrain through Saudi Arabian airspace, marking one of the first known times that an Israeli Air Force plane made such a trip publicly.

The IDF readout said Kohavi “expressed his appreciation for the United States’ commitment to the security of the State of Israel and cooperation between the two nations’ militaries.”

No public statement on the meeting was immediately provided by the US embassy. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/meeting-american-envoy-idf-chief-sorry-for-moral-failing-in-death-of-us-citizen/> [Too bad Kohavi had to play ‘clean up” for some bad actors but that is just part of the job of administrative command. The verse “a man can not serve two masters” is true and makes very difficult for those who are put in between. While the international community was “hot” to scream about Saudi involvement with the death of **Khashoggi, there are so many ‘administrative disposals’ that go unmentioned but never if Israel is involved.** – rdb]

**‘We do not agree’: UK rejects Amnesty report accusing Israel of apartheid**

***Britain joins US and Germany in denouncing findings of British HQ-ed organization that accuses Israel of systematically oppressing Palestinians***

*By* [*Lazar Berman*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/lazar-berman/) *Today, 12:50 pm*

The United Kingdom on Thursday rejected an Amnesty International report accusing Israel of apartheid.

“We do not agree with the use of this terminology,” a spokesperson for the UK’s Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office told The Times of Israel.

“Any judgment on whether serious crimes under international law have occurred is a matter for judicial decision, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies,” they said.

The spokesperson added: “As a friend of Israel, we have a regular dialogue on human rights. This includes encouraging the government of Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and do all it can to uphold the values of equality for all.”

Amnesty International is headquartered in London. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/we-do-not-agree-uk-rejects-amnesty-report-accusing-israel-of-apartheid/>

**Court orders state to respond by Tuesday to alleged police hacking in Netanyahu case**

***Jerusalem District Court says trial can proceed after reports investigators drained data from key witness’s phone without approval***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 1:13 pm* The Jerusalem District Court on Friday gave state prosecutors in Benjamin Netanyahu’s graft trial until Tuesday to answer questions from the defense about police use of spyware in the investigation into the former premier.  
 The defense attorneys had requested that hearings on Monday deal with the issue, but judges decided on Friday that the trial could proceed as usual in the meantime.  
 Reports have indicated that police, without the necessary approval from a judge, used spyware to drain all the data from the phone of Shlomo Filber, a former director-general of the Communications Ministry and longtime confidant of Netanyahu. Filber is a key state’s witness in Case 4000, the most serious of the three cases against the former prime minister.  
 Attorneys for Netanyahu and other defendants in the case have demanded to know exactly what data was obtained, how it was used and whether others involved in the trial were also targeted in the operation, among other questions. Prosecutors have said they are examining the matter.  
 Thursday reports said the revelations [could delay the trial](https://www.timesofisrael.com/police-phone-hacking-of-key-witness-in-netanyahu-case-could-force-trial-delay/) since Filber’s testimony is set to begin in two weeks.  
 The alleged phone hacking could also impact the trial in other ways, analysts said.  
 Channel 12 reported Thursday night that Filber’s phone was accessed in 2017, and had the entirety of its content drained using unnamed spyware. The network said that the discovery that Filber’s phone had been targeted was made in the course of an unrelated investigation, ordered by the attorney general, into alleged police abuse of the controversial NSO Group’s Pegasus software, but that a different technology was used to access Filber’s phone.  
 Police brass reportedly told justice officials that the data was downloaded accidentally and was never given to investigators in the Netanyahu cases, Channel 13 news reported.  
 According to Channel 13, after news broke of [police allegedly misusing Pegasus](https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-police-accused-of-using-nso-spyware-on-civilians-for-years-without-oversight/), Netanyahu’s attorneys asked the Justice Ministry if it knew of any cases of such abuse related to the former prime minister’s graft trial.  
 According to the report, police “misled” the ministry for two weeks when asked whether it had used penetrative technology to drain Filber’s phone, and in general, without prior approval.  
 Only in recent days did police say there was actually a case in which phone data was accessed from someone involved in the Netanyahu trial without approval — the case of Filber. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/court-orders-state-to-respond-by-tuesday-to-alleged-police-hacking-in-netanyahu-case/> [This little episode could very well negate much of the case against Bibi because of illegally managed information. That was a very stupid thing to do by the police. You have to wonder if **Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit was aware of it.** – rdb]

**Cabinet passes rollback of Green Pass COVID restrictions amid drop in case count**

***Starting on Monday, Israelis will no longer have to flash Green Passes at restaurants, movie theaters, gyms and hotels, but will still have to do so at event halls and dance clubs***

*By* [*TOI staff*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/times-of-israel-staff/) *Today, 7:51 pm*

The cabinet voted on Friday to approve a rollback in requirements for presenting the Green Pass as part of a further easing of COVID restrictions that coincides with a slowdown in the Omicron wave of the pandemic.

Starting on Monday, Israelis will no longer have to flash their Green Passes, which show proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test at restaurants, movie theaters, gyms and hotels.

The current Green Pass is valid for all those who have either recovered or received two doses of the vaccine in the past four months, and anyone who has received three or four doses at any time. [So if you haven’t been sick or JABBED in the last 4 months you are ‘unvaccinated” even if you had previously had 3JABS? – rdb]

Proof of a valid Green Pass will still be required upon entry to indoor sites where there is a higher risk for infection such as event halls and dance clubs.  
 The cabinet also approved the removal of crowd limits on gatherings where organizers check for Green Passes, the removal of “Purple Pass” requirements at commercial sites that required businesses to limit capacity at stores and the removal of the requirement to keep a 1.5-meter space between tables at restaurants.  
 The new rules will remain in place until March 1.  
 The cabinet vote came amid an ongoing drop in COVID cases as the Omicron wave of the pandemic appeared to have turned a corner in Israel.  
 The R-value, the reproduction rate of the virus measuring the average number of people each positive person infects, stood at 0.9 on Thursday after falling below 1 last week. At the peak of the wave, the number reached 2.08.  
 Advertisement   
 But cases still remained high with 46,429 more Israelis being diagnosed on Thursday.  
 The number of patients in serious condition stood at 1,130. The total death count since the start of the pandemic was 9,111, with 353 of those deaths coming in the last week alone. Almost a quarter of the 186,145 tested Thursday received positive results. The number of active cases stood at 412,891. [You have to remember that a huge percentage of Israelis have had at least 2 JABS and they are still getting the COV and sometimes repeatedly contrary to the claims of no reinfections. – rdb]  
 But just as Israel seems poised to begin to put the massive wave of Omicron-fueled infections behind it, the new BA.2 variant has raised concerns among health experts.  
 On Wednesday, Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, who serves as head of public health services at the Health Ministry, said during a meeting of the Knesset Health Committee that about 300 cases of the new variant have been detected in Israel so far, primarily among people returning from abroad.  
 Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned on Tuesday that Israel “can expect another difficult week and a half.”

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/cabinet-passes-rollback-of-green-pass-covid-restrictions-amid-drop-in-case-count/>

**Turkish ethnic cleansing strategy in Syria uses Israeli-Arab NGO**

***BEHIND THE LINES: What is a charity based in Israel, apparently devoted to the Palestinian cause, doing building mosques in northern Syria? Turkish ethnic cleansing.***

*By* [*JONATHAN SPYER*](https://www.jpost.com/author/jonathan-spyer) *Published: FEBRUARY 3, 2022 19:50 Updated: FEBRUARY 4, 2022 13:27*

On June 21, 2021, a newly built mosque was inaugurated in the village of Sheikh Khurez, in northwest [Syria](https://www.jpost.com/tags/syria), close to the Turkish border.

Sheikh Khurez is located in the part of Syria under the nominal administration of the opposition-linked Syrian Interim Government. In practice, since the Turkish Armed Forces’ Operation Olive Branch of 2018 destroyed the [Kurdish Afrin canton](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/war-clouds-looming-over-kurdish-afrin-in-northwest-syria-498605), the area has been under the de facto rule of Ankara and its associated militias. The latter are organized in the framework of the Turkish-trained and financed Syrian National Army.

The opening of a small mosque in a remote corner of northwest Syria six months ago might generally be seen as an unremarkable event. The new house of prayer in Sheikh Khurez, however, was noteworthy because of a particular detail – namely, the identity of the organization that sponsored the mosque’s construction, and whose logo is displayed at its entrance.

The organization in question is called the Jamia’at al aish bi’Karama, or Living with Dignity Association. This body is based not in Syria, but in the city of Tira, in central Israel. It achieved some prominence last year because of the support it afforded to Arab residents of Jerusalem protesting planned expulsions in Sheikh Jarrah. It is linked to other organizations supporting a Sunni Islamist outlook, of the type represented by the Muslim Brotherhood and the government of Turkey.

So what is a Tira charity, apparently devoted to the Palestinian cause, doing building mosques in northern Syria?

SMOKE RISES from artillery strikes near Afrin. (credit: REUTERS)

TO UNDERSTAND, it is necessary first to recall the events of early 2018. At that time, Syrian Sunni Islamist militias supported by Turkey entered the Afrin area. Around 300,000 people, mainly Kurds, became refugees following the destruction of the Afrin canton. Most of these individuals then made their way to Kurdish-controlled northeast Syria. Many of them remain in refugee camps within this area.

Since that time, Turkey has been engaged in the large-scale resettlement in Afrin of Syrian Sunni Arab refugees formerly resident in Turkey. Turkey claims that 330,000 Syrians have been relocated to the Afrin areas and other parts of northern Syria conquered by Turkey in earlier operations, since 2018.

Most of these families hail from majority Sunni Arab areas of Syria that came under rebel control during the civil war and were then reconquered by the Assad regime, such as the Damascus countryside, Homs and Hama governorates, and southern Idlib.

A considerable number of Palestinian families caught up by the war have also been resettled in Afrin. According to a January 28 report at the Rohani website (a news outlet associated with the Kurdish authority in northeast Syria), 1,535 Palestinian families have been resettled in the Afrin area. These families hail from the Yarmouk refugee camp, Khan al-Sheikh and other areas south of Damascus.

Living with Dignity’s Facebook page indicates that the organization does not appear to prioritize the interests of these Palestinian displaced persons who have been resettled in Afrin.

Rather, the organization is a participant in the Turkish-led effort to insert a new, Sunni Arab population along the border between Syria and Turkey. The mosque at Sheikh Khurez is a small detail in a larger strategy of transformation, supported by Ankara, and carried out under the auspices of the Islamist Syrian National Army. The intention is to permanently transform the demographic and cultural identity of traditionally secular and multiethnic Afrin.

The remaining non-Sunni/non-Arab populations in Afrin, whose communities are the target of this effort, include some of the most oppressed and impoverished in Syria. Living with Dignity has, for example, also financed the construction of a housing complex for Arab refugees known as Basma, which is located just south of the Yazidi village of Shadira, 15 km. from the Syrian-Turkish border. The now completed housing complex consists of eight units, totaling 96 apartments. Each apartment is 50 square meters. A mosque, a school and a health center have also been built for the new village. Around 500 Syrian Arab refugees have since been rehoused there. The complex was built on the land of one Ziad Habib, a resident of Shadira who claims that he was coerced into selling the area.

According to Kurdish sources, the authorities in this area are currently forcing remaining Yazidi residents of the village to attend compulsory Islamic education, and Yazidi residents are also required to recite the Shahadah (a declaration of Islamic faith). Six similar such villages are under construction along the Syrian-Turkish border. The specific goal appears to be the seeding of a loyal Sunni Arab population along the borderline, as part of the larger demographic transformation under way.

The Yazidis, a Kurdish-speaking, non-Muslim population in northern Syria and northern Iraq, were the subject of an attempted genocide at the hands of the Islamic State organization in the 2014-19 period. Widely reviled by Muslims in the area as “devil worshipers,” they remain the victims of widespread prejudice.

Living with Dignity has also, according to regional media, taken part in land seizures from a Syrian Kurdish citizen in the Tal Tawil area, and has financed the construction of mosques in Tal Tawil and the village of Ikidam, all within the framework of the larger project of transformation outlined above.

Living with Dignity, on its Facebook page, solicits donations for its housing projects in Syria, which it refers to under the title of the “Noble Housing” plan. The advertisement for this project includes details of a Bank Hapoalim account to which donations can be made, and the information that the cost of construction of a single housing unit is NIS 16,000. MORE - <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-695459>

**Five times Iran used Iraqi militias to conduct drone attacks - analysis**

***Iran has recently established even closer ties with Iraqi militias and is now using them to attack Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other states.***

*By* [*SETH J. FRANTZMAN*](https://www.jpost.com/author/seth-j-frantzman) *Published: FEBRUARY 4, 2022 17:01*

Iran is expanding its militia threat across the Middle East region right through to Iraq. The country has been arming, mobilizing and advising [militias in Iraq](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-691955) for many years, influencing Iraqi groups back into the 1980s.

However, recently it has established even closer ties with these groups and is now using them to attack Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other states.

**February 2022 attack on UAE**

The news that a militia in Iraq may have been behind [an attack on the UAE](https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-693957) this week is an important new milestone in Iran’s role in Iraq.

“A little-known militant group has claimed the latest drone attack on the United Arab Emirates, raising the possibility of widening security risks after a wave of assaults from Yemeni rebels,” AFP reported.

The Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen attacked the UAE on January 31, January 24 and January 17. The expansion of attacks to include Iranian-backed attacks from Iraq is being seen as a new threat, despite this not actually being the case; it is only new to the UAE. The attack from Iraq this week reportedly involved up to four drones and was launched by a group tied to pro-Iran groups in Iraq.

**May 2019 attack on Saudi Arabia**

In May 2019 Kataib Hezbollah was allegedly behind an attack on Saudi Arabia. Al-Arabiya wrote that “Kata’ib Hezbollah is also suspected of drone attacks on Saudi Arabia’s oil industry in 2019.

"On May 14, 2019, Saudi Arabia announced that two oil-pumping stations for the East-West pipeline had been hit by explosive-laden drones, calling the attack ‘an act of terrorism' that targeted global oil supplies.” The Daily Beast and other publications also wrote that the Iraqi-based militia was behind the May 2019 attack.

**January 2021 attack on Saudi Arabia**

In May 2020, Al-Arabiya reported that “Kata’ib Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia, issued a statement last week calling for terrorist attacks to be launched against Saudi Arabia.” In January 2021 reports emerged of new drone attacks on Saudi Arabia.

“Explosive-laden drones that targeted Saudi Arabia’s royal palace in the kingdom’s capital last month [January 2021] were launched from inside Iraq, a senior Iran-backed militia official in Baghdad and a US official said,”  the Associated Press reported. This was another important milestone in Iran using drones to attack countries in the region.

**May 2021 attack on Israel**

Iran had targeted Israel with a drone flown from Syria’s T-4 base in 2018. The next year Hezbollah brought drones to an area near the Golan Heights. Iran upped its drone threats to Israel in May 2021 during Israeli clashes with Hamas in Gaza. It had already provided Hamas with drone technology, just as it had done with Hezbollah and the Houthis.

In May 2021 Iran was behind a drone threat to Israel from Iraq and a drone apparently flew all the way from Iraq into Israel’s airspace before being shot down. The incident was reported at the time. Israel said the drone was an Iranian UAV at the time and indicated it came from Syria or Iraq. Subsequent reporting indicated it came from Iraq.

**Attacks on US forces in Iraq**

Drones used by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq have increasingly been used to attack US forces in Iraq. According to reports in *The New York Times* a drone was used in April 2021 to attack a “CIA hangar” at Erbil International Airport.

Another attack occurred in September 2021, reported as: “A statement by the Kurdish counter-terrorism force said the attack had been carried out by explosive-laden drones. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Witnesses said they heard at least six explosions in the area. The airport in Erbil, the capital of the autonomous Kurdish region, has come under attack several times in the past year, including by drones carrying explosives,” by France24 at the time.

The numerous incidents of Iran using drones flown from Iraq by its militias to attack countries illustrates the rising threat of Iran’s drones and the militias that operate them in the region. Reports have illustrated how Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis have expanded their drone arsenal.

In addition, Iran has moved drones to Syria and used them to attack bases such as the US Tanf garrison. Drones have been used to attack ships as well, such as a deadly attack last year on a tanker in the Gulf of Oman, and now the drone wars are expanding to target the UAE.   <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-695541>

**Amid criticism, boycotts, China picks Uyghur athlete to light Olympic cauldron**

***Opening ceremony kicks off Winter Games held under cloud of China’s human right’s record and the COVID pandemic***

*By* [*SARAH DiLORENZO*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/sarah-dilorenzo/) *Today, 7:25 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/AP22035525167153.jpg)

China's athletes Dinigeer Yilamujian and Zhao Jiawen prepare to light the Olympic Cauldron during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, in Beijing. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

BEIJING (AP) — China, which used its first Olympics to amplify its international aspirations, invited the world back Friday — sort of — for the pandemic era’s second Games, this time as an emboldened and more powerful nation whose government’s authoritarian turn provoked some countries’ leaders into staying home.

Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the Games open during a ceremony heavy on ice-blue tones and winter imagery, held in the same lattice-encased Bird’s Nest stadium that hosted the inaugural event of the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Athletes Zhao Jiawen and Dinigeer Yilamujiang, a member of the country’s Uyghur Muslim minority, delivered the final Olympic flame. The choice of Yilamujiang was steeped in symbolism: Critics say the Beijing government has abused and oppressed Uyghurs on a massive scale.

With the flame lit, Beijing became the first city to host both winter and summer Games. And while some are staying away from the second pandemic Olympics in six months, many other world leaders attended the opening ceremony. Most notable: Russian President Vladimir Putin, who met privately with Xi earlier in the day as a dangerous standoff unfolded at Russia’s border with Ukraine.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach addressed assembled athletes: “Dear fellow Olympians: Your Olympic stage is set.”

The pandemic also weighs heavily on this year’s Games, just as it did last summer in Tokyo. More than two years after the first COVID-19 cases were identified in China’s Hubei province, some 700 miles (1,100 km) south of Beijing, nearly 6 million human beings have died and hundreds of millions more around the world have been sickened.

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated The host country itself claims some of the lowest rates of death and illness from the virus, in part because of strict lockdowns imposed by the government aimed at quickly stamping out outbreaks. Such measures instantly greeted anyone arriving to compete in or attend the Winter Games.

Dancers perform during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, in Beijing. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

An Olympic opening ceremony typically provides the host nation a chance to showcase its culture, define its place in the world, flaunt its best side. That’s something China in particular has been consumed with for decades. But at this year’s Beijing Games, the gulf between performance and reality is shaping up to be particularly jarring.

Fourteen years ago, a Beijing opening ceremony that featured massive pyrotechnic displays and thousands of card-flipping performers set a new standard of extravagance to start an Olympics that no host since has matched. It was a fitting start to an event often billed as China’s “coming out.”

Now, no matter how you view it, China has arrived — but the hope for a more open country that accompanied those first Games has faded.

For Beijing, these Olympics are a confirmation of its status as world player and power. Yet for many outside China, particularly in the West, they have become a confirmation of the country’s embrace of more oppressive policies.

Chinese authorities are crushing pro-democracy activism and tightening their control over Hong Kong, becoming more confrontational with Taiwan, and interning Uyghurs in the far west — a crackdown the US government and others have called genocide.

A picture containing indoor

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The Chinese national flag is raised during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, in Beijing. (AP Photo/Natacha Pisarenko)

In protest of those actions, leaders of the United States, Britain, Australia and Canada, among others, imposed a diplomatic boycott on these Games, shunning appearances alongside Chinese leadership while still allowing their athletes to compete. But China came back with its own symbolic finger in the eye Friday, putting Yilamujiang in the opening night’s most anticipated role.

In the runup to the Olympics, China’s suppression of dissent was also on display in the controversy surrounding Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai. She disappeared from public view last year after accusing a former Communist Party official of sexual assault. Her accusation was quickly scrubbed from the internet, and discussion of it remains heavily censored.

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In the shadow of those political issues, China put on its show. As Xi took his seat, the performers turned toward him and repeatedly bowed. A simultaneous cheer went up as they raised their pom-poms toward their president — China’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, who established the People’s Republic in 1949. A barrage of fireworks, including some that spelled out “Spring,” announced that the festivities were at hand. MORE - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/amid-criticism-boycotts-china-picks-uyghur-athlete-to-light-olympic-cauldron/> [Do yourself and others a favor – Avoid these games. The fact that NBC sunk 7.75 Billion for broadcast these ‘events’. Considering all that is going on, from my perspective that is like paying the enemy to destroy the US - RDB

**‘Never again,’ for Uyghurs: Jews ramping up China protests as Beijing Olympics start**

***Citing experience of the Holocaust, Jewish groups have targetted international companies that are supporting the winter Olympics and continue doing business in the Xinjiang region***

*By* [*Toby Axelrod*](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/toby-axelrod/) *Today, 6:51 pm*

[](https://static.timesofisrael.com/www/uploads/2022/02/2-3-22-protesters-2048x1138-1.jpg)

Members of Never Again Right Now protest at Allianz headquarters in Berlin, Jan. 21, 2022. (Tibet Initiative Germany via JTA)

BERLIN (JTA) — On a recent Friday afternoon, with the Beijing Olympic Games only three weeks away, Mischa Ushakov and Padma Wangyal chained themselves to the entrance of the Allianz insurance giant’s headquarters in Germany’s capital.

They had two demands: that Allianz “drop their sponsorship of the games in China and comment on the human rights abuses of the Chinese government,” Ushakov said.

“We gave them a one-week deadline,” he added.

Ushakov, 23, is a co-founder with Bini Guttmann of Never Again Right Now, a two-year-old Jewish group dedicated to raising awareness about China’s persecution of its Uyghur Muslim minority. Wangyal is a 73-year-old Tibetan exile; Never Again Right Now had joined forces with the Tibet Initiative Deutschland for the Allianz protest.

Their protest failed to move Allianz. But when the Beijing Winter Olympic Games open on Friday, they and other protesters will be back, this time at the iconic Brandenburg Gate.

They are also planning a “humanistic” torch relay in 15 German cities to mark the start of the Olympics — which they are calling the “genocide games.”

“As a Jew in Germany you are always seen as a so-called genocide expert,” Ushakov told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “When Bini and I started this campaign we hoped that as Jews talking about genocide – and some of us are descendants of Holocaust survivors – we would get more attention. I call it a disintegration of the narrative: People in Germany will always see the victim in me, so if they will, then I will talk about something they don’t want to hear.”

A person singing into a microphone

Description automatically generated

Mischa Ushakov, the founder of Never Again Right Now, at the Allianz headquarters protest in Berlin, Jan. 21, 2022. (Tibet Initiative Germany via JTA)

Ushakov’s group is far from alone. In London, Jewish groups will join a demonstration at Piccadilly Circus. In other cities, there will be demonstrations outside Chinese embassies and consulates.

Since 2015, China has cracked down on its Uyghur population — a Turkic Muslim minority with a presence in the country’s western Xinjiang region — placing them in so-called re-education camps, which can be spotted in satellite photos. Reports smuggled out of China and spread in mainstream media tell of police and military brutality, sexual crimes and forced sterilizations. Members of the Uyghur diaspora have been cut off from their families in China for years, even decades, and some reportedly have been pressed to spy for China, under threat of harm being done to their relatives.

A picture containing outdoor

Description automatically generated The Pentagon reported in 2019 that at least one million people out of a total population of some 10 million Uyghurs had been rounded up and put through the camps since 2015.

A person stands in a tower on the perimeter of the Number 3 Detention Center in Dabancheng in western China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, on April 23, 2021. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

The United States, Britain, Canada and Australia are holding a diplomatic boycott of the games. While Israel has remained largely silent, ostensibly due to warm relations with China, prominent Jews elsewhere have raised their voices: British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis last year joined a British Jewish protest campaign, calling on the public to “taint the [Olympic] brand… in protest against the unspeakable atrocities that are being committed today against the Uyghur Muslims.” European Parliament Member Raphaël Glucksmann of France, who is Jewish, launched a campaign to boycott international retailers linked to Uyghur forced labor.

The US Holocaust Memorial Museum has published information about the persecution on its website and major US Jewish organizations like the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League have spoken out on the issue.

“People being persecuted for things like wearing beards or prayer shawls, these are things that the Jewish community knows too well,” said Serena Oberstein, 42, executive director of Jewish World Watch, a California-based organization established to raise awareness about genocide. Last fall they held a protest outside a Chinese consulate on the anniversary of the 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom against Jews in Germany.

“This is not the Holocaust: There is no perfect comparison,” Oberstein said. “But for me personally, the stories we are hearing coming out of the region are too familiar to the stories I heard growing up from my grandfather” – a soldier who helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.

A group of people holding signs

Description automatically generated

Members of Jewish World Watch protest at Volkswagen headquarters in Southern California. (Serena Oberstein via JTA)

Oberstein helped form an interfaith “Berlin-Beijing Coalition,” which draws a parallel between the Olympic games in China today and the ones held in Nazi Germany in 1936.

“The Nazi party used the Berlin games to strengthen its reputation in the world. Two years later came Kristallnacht. [Today,] we know what authoritarian regimes that systemically persecute people do, when they build concentration camps and ghettos and forced labor camps,” she said.

The level of Jewish protest has ramped up as the Games have drawn closer. Last week, the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity took [out a full-page ad](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-nyt-ad-sharansky-henri-levy-urge-olympics-boycott-over-chinas-abuse-of-uighurs/) in The New York Times, signed by the French Jewish philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy, the former Soviet refusenik Natan Sharansky and Wiesel’s son Elisha, urging athletes and corporate sponsors to “walk away from these games unless Beijing takes steps to reunite Uyghur families. And we urge the world’s citizens to embrace the cause of this persecuted population.”

Of all the groups taking up this issue, none have been more active than Jewish ones, said Washington, DC-based attorney Nury Turkel, chair and co-founder of the Uyghur Human Rights Project. Second to the Jews in the United States are the Southern Baptists, he said.

A person standing at a podium

Description automatically generated with medium confidence “‘Never again’ is relatable to what the Uyghurs are going through,” said Turkel, 50, who was born during the Cultural Revolution in a Chinese reeducation camp for Uyghurs and came to the United States in 1997. “It looks like [Chinese leader] Xi Jinping is using Hitler’s playbook: targeting the social elites, the intellectuals, religious leaders, going after women and children, using slave labor, and using the fanfare around global events to normalize their behavior. When the Berlin Olympics took place, Hitler had already built [the concentration camp] Dachau.”

China’s President Xi Jinping declares the Games open during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, in Beijing. (Anthony Wallace/Pool Photo via AP)

“I talk to my Jewish friends and supporters and have been deeply touched listening to their passionate remarks,” added Turkel, who has been invited to brief members of the AJC and other Jewish organizations. “They told me, ‘We cannot tolerate that this happens.’”

The call to action is urgent, says Mia Hasenson-Gross, executive director of the London-based Jewish charity René Cassin, which has been a major force galvanizing Jewish activism in the United Kingdom on the Uyghur issue. The organization is named for the French-Jewish co-author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Nobel Peace Prize recipient René Samuel Cassin (1887-1976).

“Uyghur women are forcibly sterilized; children are forced to denounce their language and culture tradition, they are under surveillance,” Hasenson-Gross said. “If we stop the Chinese government now from its acts of preventing births, from acts of future destruction, then we have a chance at preventing the genocide of the Uyghur people.”

There are also lone Jews standing up, like Andrew, a 50-something Orthodox Jewish businessman in London who did not reveal his full name over privacy concerns. Twice weekly for the last year and half, he has been protesting outside a Volkswagen showroom on a busy street in Southgate, asking the German company to leave the Uyghur area, where it has a factory. He and a friend named Daniel even recently stood quietly with signs outside a Holocaust Remembrance ceremony at Middlesex University, with the approval of Andrew’s mother-in-law, a Holocaust survivor.

Andrew occasionally faces harassment — both “anti-Muslim hatred” and “antisemitism,” he said.

A group of people holding signs

Description automatically generated with medium confidence “I am the victim of anti-Muslim hatred for holding up a sign that says ‘3 million Muslims in Chinese concentration camps and in slave labor,’ and I get quite a bit of antisemitic abuse,” he said. “I am trying to save women’s and children’s lives, and they shout at me, ‘Free Palestine.’ That is pure antisemitism.

Demonstrators supporting Tibetans, Uyghurs and Hong Kongers take part in a protest against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to coincide with the 72nd National Day of the People’s Republic of China, as they march along Regent Street towards the Chinese Embassy, in London, on October 1, 2021. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham, File)

“About three weeks ago, someone drove past and said, ‘Do yourself a favor and get a job.’ Well, I have a job, and I think spending an hour or two twice a week is worthwhile to save those lives if we can,” he added.

For athletes, protest has its own challenges. First of all, Olympic athletes have no say in where Olympic games will be held, says former Olympic skier Noah Hoffmann, who is Jewish. He recently co-founded Global Athlete, which aims to correct what he describes as an imbalance of power between sports administration and athletes.

“The power that the International Olympic Committee wields is immense,” said Hoffmann, 32, who is finishing an undergraduate degree at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, after moving on from his sports career.

The other challenge is the danger of speaking up in China. “I believe in the power of athletes to be forces of good… so I hate telling them to stay silent in China, but the risks are just too high there,” he said, noting the recent disappearance of Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai after she accused a retired Chinese Communist Party official of sexual assault.

“The Women’s Tennis Association canceled all 2022 tournaments in China, they walked away,” he said.

The IOC did not follow suit. According to a Jan. 5 report in The New York Times, the IOC has been reluctant to comment on human rights abuses in China.

“The use of sport to distract from genocide is not new,” added Hoffmann, whose great-grandmother left Holland before the Holocaust.

The IOC “has never been held to account for its strange affinity with totalitarian regimes around the world,” said Turkel, who urges the public to denounce corporate sponsors and refuse to watch the games.

Back in Berlin, Ushakov said he and Wangyal unchained themselves from the Allianz doors last month after a security official told them their concerns would be discussed at company headquarters in Munich. But “that information is not accurate,” Allianz spokeswoman Anja Rechenberg told JTA in a phone call later that day. “The initiative has been in contact with us for many months, and their demands are known.”

Their demonstration in Berlin “doesn’t change anything,” Rechenberg said. “For us, this is a long-term commitment. Allianz is a strong supporter of sport, and in this framework we have an eight-year commitment to the Olympic Games.”

Allianz is one of many German firms that have uncovered and publicized their Nazi past. But the company hasn’t learned the right lessons, said Berliner Tenzin Yangzom, 30, executive director of the Tibet Initiative Deutschland, who contacted Never Again Right Now for help with its Allianz protest. “It is very important to have the voices of the Jewish campaign.”

“This world was given the promise of ‘Never Again,’ and that means, on one hand, combating all forms of antisemitism and standing with Jews — of course,” the Never Again Right Now co-founder Guttmann said in a call from Vienna. “But the promise also meant preventing genocide and mass atrocities around the world. The world has failed in that mission again and again.” <https://www.timesofisrael.com/never-again-for-uyghurs-jews-ramping-up-china-protests-as-beijing-olympics-start/> [This is a long article but the information is excellent. The problem that exists in China parallels what The Russians has done for dissidents in the past repeatedly and is not unlike the type of actions that were encountered during the Holocaust. These people are being persecuted because of their religion and are being brutalized by the Chinese. I well remember as a child the stories that were told of the horrific Chinese brutality to foreigners during the war era. Both China and Japan seem to have a particularly effective way to disabling and destroying their opponents It is important to be aware that this is going on and to take a stand. As most of you are aware I am not a proponent of Islam but this treatment of a specific people is totally without cause. – rdb]

**Biden escalating Ukraine tensions – US Senator**

***Worsening ties between Russia and Ukraine are down to the “occupant of the Oval Office,” Ted Cruz has claimed***

*4 Feb, 2022 19:24*

Senator Ted Cruz has accused US President Joe Biden of being the real reason for the escalation of tensions between the West and Russia, arguing that his leadership has helped worsen the situation across the shared border with Ukraine. Ameyn and Ameyn brother TED. It should be apparent to all that much if not almost all of the ‘pot stirring’ has come from DC. – rdb]

Speaking in the Senate on Thursday, Cruz hinted that the high levels of tension around Eastern Europe are due to the new “occupant of the Oval Office*,”* and questioned why there was no threat of a Russian invasion in the years prior.

“Why didn’t it happen in 2018, 2019, or 2020? What changed?” he asked, implying that Biden’s presidency is the catalyst that sparked the rise in tensions seen in recent months.

Senator Cruz went on to accuse Biden of showing“weakness and appeasement almost immediately after he put his hand on the Bible,” arguing the President has been underperforming since his inauguration in January last year.

Cruz, a member of the Republican Party and former Presidential contender, has long been a vocal opponent of Biden. His latest speech is not the first time he has accused White House of incompetency. Speaking on Fox News in December, Cruz insisted that the messy withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan that summer served to “embolden America’s enemies*,”* including Russia. According to the senator, Moscow's purported aggression towards Ukraine is an inevitable consequence the weakening of the US’ status on the world stage.

Cruz’s accusations come amidst heightened tensions between Russian and NATO. A number of Western leaders have instead blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for escalating the situation, while the Kremlin has said the US-led military bloc is behind the escalation.

Washington and Brussels have repeatedly claimed Moscow is planning an invasion of Ukraine, citing reports of a build-up of Russian troops in Belarus and on its own side of the border. In response, Moscow says it is only moving its forces within its own territory, which it has the right to do. NATO forces have also started building up troops and equipment on the bloc’s eastern flank in turn. On Wednesday, Washington announced that it would be sending approximately 3,000 soldiers to Romania, Germany, and Poland.

The following day, the US accused Russia of preparing a false flag attack in the east of Ukraine as a pretext for an invasion, but declined to give evidence. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has hit out at the claims as *“nonsense.”* [*https://www.rt.com/russia/548331-ted-cruz-accuses-biden/*](https://www.rt.com/russia/548331-ted-cruz-accuses-biden/)[The world’s greatest expertise in carrying out false flags seems to have been the CIA and FBI – rdb]

**Russia comments on possibility of sending troops to Latin America**

***The remarks come after Putin agreed to increase military cooperation with Nicaragua, Cuba, and Venezuela***

*By* ***Layla Guest***

Russian soldiers could be sent to Nicaragua under laws already in place in the Central American nation, Moscow’s ambassador in Managua has argued amid a new standoff with Washington over the prospect of the Kremlin stepping up its military presence in the region.

Speaking to RIA Novosti on Friday, Alexander Khokholikov, who also serves as the envoy to Honduras and El Salvador, commented on the possibility of hosting overseas forces within Nicaragua's borders.

“The government passes a law annually on the foreign military presence in Nicaraguan territo*ry,”* he explained. *“It provides for the possibility of the transit and presence of servicemen, as well as military equipment from a number of countries, including Russia and, incidentally, the US, for the exchange of experience in the field of military cooperation, joint exercises, and activities in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime.”*

According to the diplomat, military cooperation between Moscow and Managua “is not directed against third countries,” despite a worsening row with the US over the potential deployments.

Khokholikov added that “regardless of the current political situation in the world and the opportunistic outbursts of tension by the West in relations with Moscow, an increase in Russian-Nicaraguan cooperation in trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian spheres, as well as in the military field is envisaged*.”*

His remarks come after Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed last month to strengthen partnerships with the leaders of Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua in a range of spheres, including stepping up military cooperation.

Earlier that month, Moscow’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov refused to rule out sending troops to Latin America, saying only that *“it’s the American style to have several options for its foreign and military policy.”*

*“The president of Russia has spoken multiple times on the subject of what the measures could be, for example involving the Russian Navy, if things are set on the course of provoking Russia, and further increasing the military pressure on us by the US,”* he added.

Washington, however, hit out at the suggestion that Moscow’s troops could be stationed in Venezuela and Cuba, which is barely 100 miles off the US coast. In mid-January, United States National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan warned that *“If Russia were to move in that direction, we would deal with it decisively.”*

Tensions between the US and Russia have been strained in recent months, with Western leaders sounding the alarm that Moscow’s armed forces are gearing up to invade Ukraine. The Kremlin, however, has repeatedly stated that it has no intention of attacking its neighbor, and has instead looked to gain written guarantees ruling out NATO expansion closer to the country’s borders - a request which has since been turned down. <https://www.rt.com/russia/548342-possibility-send-troops-latin-america/> [Perhaps the US will understand why Russia is destressed with he possibility of NATO forces in Ukraine. If they don’t want Russia in Cuba then think of what the US and NATO are doing. – rdb]

**‘Freedom Convoys’ gaining steam across Europe – reports**

*Inspired by the Canadian movement, truckers in Europe are planning to import the protest by driving to national capitals before “converging” on Brussels*

*4 Feb, 2022 18:44*

Truckers in France are reportedly planning to emulate the Canadian ‘Freedom Convoy’ by mobilizing groups of big rigs to protest vaccine mandates and other Covid-19 restrictions set by Paris. According to a BFM TV report, demonstrators plan to “paralyze” the French capital next week before joining a wider *“European convergence”* in Brussels.

The outlet reported that a [leaflet](https://twitter.com/mimip41/status/1488846436020142089/photo/1) announcing the ‘Freedom Convoy France’ has been circulated on social media networks, calling on *“citizens”* to *“recover their freedom, their fundamental rights, unconditional access to care, education, and culture, respect for the essential values of our Constitution.”* It also noted that the truckers in *“Canada [had] paved the way for us.”*

After final preparations on Monday and Tuesday, the convoy will set off in three waves from across France – with those furthest from Paris setting off on Wednesday, according to an itinerary on the leaflet. All three waves are expected to reach the national capital Friday evening. On Sunday, the convoy is slated to leave and *“join our European friends”* in Brussels.

⚠️The 14th February 2022 Will be the Day when ALL European Convoys will RDV in Brussels and Siege the European Capital until Vaccination Pass and Associated Restrictions are Abolished. [#TruckersForFreedom2022](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TruckersForFreedom2022?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[#TruckersForFreedomEurope](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TruckersForFreedomEurope?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[#europeanfreedomconvoy](https://twitter.com/hashtag/europeanfreedomconvoy?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[@EuropeConvoy](https://twitter.com/EuropeConvoy?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)[pic.twitter.com/ukOFqyi2xd](https://t.co/ukOFqyi2xd)

— European Freedom Convoy 2022 (@EuropeConvoy) [January 30, 2022](https://twitter.com/EuropeConvoy/status/1487810045412659203?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The BFM TV report noted that a Facebook [group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1361647004300199/about), called ‘Le convoi de la liberte’, had been created on January 26 and reached nearly 197,000 members. The outlet said the convoy may reinvigorate protests against vaccination passes, which have apparently been flagging in recent weeks.

In addition, the report pointed to a ‘World Freedom Convoy’ group that has been set up on Telegram. This is thought to include demonstrators from Germany, Italy, and Croatia, among others. The Bruzz news outlet in Belgium reported on Thursday that some 40,000 people had joined the group within the past week – with the focus on free speech and the right to make one’s own health choices.

NEW - Dutch truckers drive in a convoy through Friesland, Netherlands, inspired by events in Canada.[pic.twitter.com/mbfogSoupr](https://t.co/mbfogSoupr)

— Disclose.tv (@disclosetv) [January 30, 2022](https://twitter.com/disclosetv/status/1487777627486265346?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

According to Bruzz news, the truck drivers hope to head toward their respective capital cities starting Monday before heading on to Brussels. The outlet noted that it was unclear how many would actually take part, but added that police were monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile, The Guardian reported that a Facebook group of US truckers called ‘Convoy to DC 2022’, who planned to drive to Washington, DC next month, had gained more than 100,000 members before being deleted by Meta. The organizers have reportedly since moved to Telegram, where over 28,000 have joined. <https://www.rt.com/news/548380-freedom-convoys-gaining-steam-europe/> [It appears that people are finally waking up to the fact that the have been lied to and PHYICALLY abused by the deep state globalists who are hell bent on depopulating the world. May those responsible receive the righteous judgement of The Holy One. – rdb]

**Billionaire says US on ‘classic path’ to civil war**

***The risk lies in an explosive mix of large deficits, high taxes, inflation, and a wealth gap, Ray Dalio warns***

*4 Feb, 2022 14:58*

The founder of the world’s largest hedge fund Bridgewater Associates, Ray Dalio, has warned on Thursday that the US is on a “classic path” toward “some form” of a civil war.  
 The current financial conditions and irreconcilable differences in desires and values are consistent with the ingredients leading to civil strife, according to him.  
 “*Not* knowing what is true because of distortions in the media and propaganda increases as people become more polarized, emotional, and politically motivated*,*” Dalio wrote on LinkedIn.  
 He pointed to a number of factors that led him to this notion, including large deficits, high taxes, inflation, and wealth disparity that bring about political polarization.  
 “*When that happens at the same time as* there are foreign powers that are becoming strong enough to challenge the leading world power that is encountering this civil war dynamic, it is an especially risky period*. That is the period I believe we are now in*,” Dalio stressed, adding that “*the biggest question is how much the system will bend before it breaks*.”  
 He noted that political powers from opposing sides are “fighting to win at all costs,” making it impossible to compromise and leaving many “*too afraid*” to speak up or run for public office.   
 “*History shows that the biggest risk to democracies is that they produce such fragmented and antagonistic decision-making that they are ineffective and disorderly, which leads to bad results and revolutions.*”  
 Dalio predicts that this year’s elections will become the turning point for US internal politics.  
 “*In the 2022 elections we will see losses by moderates and gains by extremists/populists […] because each side wants fighters not compromisers. The Supreme Court will make decisions on contentious issues that people are willing to fight over. There is a big risk that each side will view the decisions as unfairly made by the other side and not accept them, which will lead to tests of power,*” he predicts.  
 This is not the first time Dalio voiced such dire forecasts. In November last year he published a book ‘Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order: Why Nations Succeed and Fail’, where he also warned of a “*dangerously high risk*” of a civil war in the US within the next 10 years due to the “*exceptional amount of polarization.*” <https://www.rt.com/business/548340-billionaire-dalio-us-civil-war/> [I do believe the man speaks the truth. Things are more unstable now than I have ever seen or could ever imagine. - rdb

**Zuckerbucks targeted in proposed constitutional amendment**

*State plan would prevent billionaires from 'controlling' elections with their money*

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 4, 2022 at 12:12pm*

An expert who studied the impact of the almost $420 million Mark Zuckerberg gave to mostly leftist elections officials with instructions to recruit voters from Democrat districts in the 2020 presidential election announced a stunning conclusion: "The 2020 election wasn’t stolen — it was likely bought by one of the world’s wealthiest and most powerful men pouring his money through legal loopholes."

That's [according to William Doyle, a principal researcher at Caesar Rodney Election Research Institute in Irving, Texas, who explained his findings in a report at](https://www.wnd.com/2021/10/research-shows-2020-election-bought-mark-zuckerberg/) [The Federalist.](https://thefederalist.com/2021/10/12/the-2020-election-wasnt-stolen-it-was-bought-by-mark-zuckerberg/)

Now lawmakers in Wisconsin, where $9 million of those "Zuckerbucks" as they are derogatorily described were used to influence the election results in five key population centers, want to do something about it.

They want to change their state constitution to prevent it from happening again.

[Just the News](https://justthenews.com/nation/states/center-square/wisconsin-republicans-look-constitutional-ban-zuckerbucks) reports Rep. Tyler August, R-Lake Geneva, is proposing that amendment to ban private donations for elections operations there.

He said it "would prohibit out-of-state billionaires like Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook from using their deep pockets to control our local election."

The state was one of several key swing states where President Trump had significant support heading into the 2020 election. But it, like the others, abruptly changed direction with vote totals sometimes swinging radically in the middle of the night. In all those swing states, Joe Biden ended up with narrow margins of victory.

The results prompted lawsuits and challenges, but judges largely dismissed cases on standing issues and others, without reaching the issue at hand.

What is known is that Zuckerberg's $420 million was handed out like candy – and was completely outside of the normal campaign finance laws because it went to elections officials.

Also in that election, those elections officials variously ignored or changed state laws to process mail-in ballots that sometimes were not technically legal, and legacy and social media coordinated on a campaign to suppress accurate – and damaging – reporting about the overseas financial schemes of the Biden family just before the election. A survey later revealed had more people been familiar with those scandals, President Trump would be in the White House today.

Zuckerberg handed out his money through the Center for Tech and Civic Life, and that is at the heart of investigations in Wisconsin now.

"Both former Supreme Court Justice Mike Gableman and state lawmakers want answers as to just how Wisconsin’s five largest (and five largest Democratic) cities used nearly $9 million in grants from the group in the 2020 election," Just the News reported.

The evidence shows CTCL offered Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Racine, and Kenosha grant money as a way to help people vote during the coronavirus, but it also suggests it actually all but took over election operations in Green Bay.

"Voters need to be able to trust their local election officials are acting in a non-partisan capacity," August said in an earlier email.  
 Rep. Gae Magnifici, R-Dresser, agreed, "I've talked about this attack on public faith and the importance of restoring the integrity of Wisconsin’s elections countless times. I'm proud to co-sponsor Rep. August’s constitutional amendment to prohibit out-of-state billionaires from buying our election."  
 Lawmakers have proposed other election reforms, but Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, has promised he'll veto anything he doesn't like.  
 However, a constitutional amendment would go to the voters, bypassing him entirely.  
 [Doyle's research](https://www.wnd.com/2021/10/research-shows-2020-election-bought-mark-zuckerberg/) confirmed Zuckerberg's money was used "to turn out likely Democratic voters."  
 Not through traditional political spending, but through a "targeted, private takeover of government election operations by nominally non-partisan – but demonstrably ideological – non-profit organizations."  
 Doyle explained analysis work done by his team shows Zuckerbucks "significantly increased Joe Biden's vote margin in key swing states."  
 "This unprecedented merger of public election offices with private resources and personnel is an acute threat to our republic, and should be the focus of electoral reform efforts moving forward," he warned.  
 He explained the handouts came with strings, with demands for specific ways that the money could be used.  
 This resulted in the "infiltration of election offices at the city and county level by left-wing activists, and using those offices as a platform to implement preferred administrative practices, voting methods, and data-sharing agreements, and as well as to launch intensive outreach campaigns in areas heavy with Democratic voters," he said.  
 He specifically cited Wisconsin, where "vote navigators" helped voters "to answer questions, assist in ballot curing … and witness absentee ballot signatures."  
 "CTCL demanded the promotion of universal mail-in voting through suspending election laws, extending deadlines that favored mail-in over in-person voting, greatly expanding opportunities for 'ballot curing,' expensive bulk mailings, and other lavish 'community outreach' programs that were directed by private activists," the report said.  
 The report said the result of Zuckerberg's spending was "to create a 'shadow' election system with a built-in structural bias that systematically favored Democratic voters over Republican voters."  
 Doyle reported, "We call this the injection of structural bias into the 2020 election, and our analysis shows it likely generated enough additional votes for Biden to secure an Electoral College victory in 2020." <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/zuckerbucks-targeted-proposed-constitutional-amendment/> [THE single most critical issue of the nation is returning election integrity and that includes that ONLY legal residents can vote in any election and outside influences like the Zuck and Soros and Bezos is blocked. – rdb]

**Biden plan even worse than just national gun registry, critic charges**

***'Confiscating legally owned firearms, it seems, is not merely a right-wing conspiracy theory'***

*By* [*Bob Unruh*](https://www.wnd.com/author/runruh/) *Published February 4, 2022 at 2:55pm*

It was [Rep. Michael Cloud, R-Texas,](https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/todays-database-actually-banned-federal-gun-registry/) who just days ago warned of the possibility of an illegal national gun registry being assembled by Joe Biden's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

He said the "notably corrupt" agency was managing that by acquiring nearly a billion gun transfer records – so far.

He worries those details could be exploited by Biden to surveil American gun owners even while working to ban weapons.

Now John R. Lott Jr., the president of the Crime Prevention Research Center and formerly an adviser for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy, is explaining it's worse than that.

In a column at [Real Clear Politics,](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2022/02/04/democrats_pushing_gun_registry_as_precursor_to_gun_ban_147139.html) he explains not only federal officials "will have the name of everyone who legally obtained a gun," Joe Biden now "wants to make universal background checks nationwide so he can have an even more complete registration list."

"According to a Rasmussen Reports survey, Democrats support the idea by a 2-1 ratio, while Republicans oppose it by a similar margin. Two-thirds of Republicans believe the policy will lead to gun confiscation, and even 40% of Democrats believe the same. Confiscating legally owned firearms, it seems, is not merely a right-wing conspiracy theory," he warned.

"Similarly, a recent Gallup poll shows that 40% of Democrats want a complete ban on civilian ownership of handguns. Countries such as Canada, the U.K., and Australia aren't the only ones to use registration to ban and confiscate guns. California, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. have also used registration to know who legally owned different types of guns before banning them."

He explained that gun control activists always "push for registration as a way to solve crime," but that's not necessarily what happens.

"In a 2001 lawsuit, the Pennsylvania state police could not identify any crimes solved by their registration system from 1901 to 2001; however they did claim that it had 'assisted' in a total of four cases, for which they could provide no details," he said. And, "In a 2013 deposition for District of Columbia v. Heller II, the plaintiffs recorded that the Washington, D.C. police chief could not 'recall any specific instance where registration records were used to determine who committed a crime, except for possession offenses.'"

He added that, "During testimony before the Hawaii State Senate in 2000, Honolulu’s police chief stated that he couldn't find any crimes that had been solved due to registration and licensing."

And, "New York and Maryland spent tens of millions of dollars putting together a computer database on all new guns sold in the past 15 years, even recording the ballistic fingerprint of each gun. But even these states, which strongly favor gun control, eventually abolished their systems because they never solved a single crime," he cited.

"Why do Democrats keep pushing a policy that costs so much and has no crime-reducing benefits?" he wondered. <https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/biden-plan-even-worse-just-national-gun-registry-critic-charges/> [Cure stupid – No way! These evil people simply are pushing for any means of stopping opposition to their absolute control over the US population. They need to go bye bye very quickly. – rdb]

**Commentary:**

**Why Conservatives Should Be EAGER to Deter Putin on Ukraine   
*By Rich Lowry*** *Published Feb. 4, 2022* If he accomplishes nothing else with his Ukraine gambit, Vladimir Putin has exposed divisions, both in the NATO alliance and within the American right.   
 Once upon a time, if a Russian dictator felt tempted by the weakness of a Democratic president to invade a European country, the conservative reaction would have been uniform and predictable.   
 Not anymore. The rise of a populism skeptical of prior conservative priorities and of a realism in reaction to the idealistic excesses of George W. Bush's presidency means everything is up for grabs.   
 This faction on the right, which has become increasingly influential in the Trump era, tends to make several arguments: It's not worth fighting a war over Ukraine, which is not strategically central to the United States. Russia will inevitably have a sphere of influence on its periphery. Shamefully and tellingly, Europe isn't willing to spend in its own defense, so we shouldn't feel any obligation to step into the gap. We should be willing to cut a deal with Putin rather than taking the risk of him invading Ukraine. China is a much more important threat to the U.S. than Russia.   
 These claims are all either true, have some truth to them, or are, at least, reasonable and worth debating.   
 Yet, Ukraine should matter to us — not enough to fight a war over, no, but enough for us to attempt to deter Putin and make him pay a steep price if he invades. Maintaining NATO and the current European order are clearly in the national security interests of the United States, and it would be strategic folly of the highest order to kick them away, or allow them to be significantly eroded, because Putin is hostile to them.   
 This is not a question of whether to fight a war with Russia or not. What is mostly being talked about is various forms of sanctions that aren't tantamount to war. We have such penalties on a long list of countries that we aren't engaged in active hostilities with, from Cuba to Venezuela to Zimbabwe. Indeed, we already have extensive sanctions on Russia that have harmed its economy without leading to military conflict.   
 It's also not the case that anything Putin does, say, to strengthen his hold on the Donbass will mean the inevitable collapse of the world order as we know it.   
 Make no mistake, though, Putin essentially wants to reverse the outcome of the Cold War by intimidating NATO into pulling out of the Eastern European countries that have joined the alliance since 1997. It'd be perverse if the right began to push for the U.S. to act as if it lost the Cold War, when it didn't, or suffered some non-existent catastrophic setback in Europe since then. Nor should conservatives begin adopting a version of the old left-wing trope from the Cold War that if only we stopped provoking Russia through our willingness to defend ourselves and our European allies, everything could be worked out amicably among reasonable people.   
 NATO is a defensive alliance. No one sincerely believes, not even the Kremlin, that it is going to wage a war of aggression against Russia. Think about it. Since when does Russia have more to fear from, say, Estonia or Poland — countries on the Eastern flank of NATO — than they have to fear from Russia?   
 If Germany won't even provide Ukraine with weapons to resist a potential invasion by Moscow, how is it going to sign up to roll into the heartland of Russia? And who's going to provide all the requisite troops and tanks? The U.S. has a lot of them, but no one else does.   
 In this respect, Putin could be justified in dismissing the collective forces of the most important European countries — the U.K., France and Britain — with a version of Otto von Bismarck's supposed quip, "If Lord Palmerston sends the British army to Germany, I shall have the police arrest them."   
 It is Putin who is the aggressor. He is the one who has created the crisis from out of nowhere by menacing a country that has zero interest in threatening a Russia that is much larger and militarily superior.   
 Surely, what worries Putin most isn't any military threat, but the Western model of free, accountable government that puts his kleptocratic authoritarianism in a particularly bad light, especially the closer it gets to his borders.   
 Even if NATO completely collapsed and Putin swept to control of all of continental Europe, it's not clear that his head would rest easy on his pillow at night, knowing that his government lacks democratic legitimacy and is being outstripped by countries reaping the benefits of self-government, the rule of law, independent judiciaries and constitutional rights.   
 The Soviet Union occupied half of Europe and didn't feel secure for similar reasons — it wasn't a normal country. Nor is Putin's Russia.   
 There is a tendency on the populist right to associate support for Ukraine's (flawed) democracy with woolly-headed thinking. But the belief that nations belong to their own people, and should be self-governing and sovereign, is not quixotic liberalism; it's the essence of nationalism.   
 We can't take for granted the status quo of a largely democratic Europe respectful of sovereign borders. The same way that great power conflict has reemerged after a brief hiatus, it's easy to imagine the age-old European norm of ever-shifting alliances and internecine conflict returning.  
 There's no guarantee that we wouldn't, as often happened in the past, get drawn into a Europe consumed once again with internal rivalries. In the 18th century, a European world war was partly fought on these shores, the French and Indian War; in the 19th century, the conflict between France and Britain helped derange the politics of the early American republic and provided the predicate for the War of 1812; and in the 20th century, of course, we got dragged into both World War I and World War II.  
 Against this historical backdrop, it's an enormous benefit to us to have a vast zone in Europe that is prosperous, free and at peace, and that is allied with the United States and looks to us for leadership. There are costs and annoyances that come with this arrangement, to be sure. As the economist Thomas Sowell said in a different context, there are no solutions, only trade-offs.  
 In a conflict between a country (Ukraine) that values this arrangement — and in fact wants to be part of it — and a country (Russia) that wants to tear it apart for its own cynical purposes and in the hopes of making us weaker, there should be no doubt whose side we should be on.   
 NATO isn't as vital as it was during the Cold War — institutions inevitably change over time — but it still matters. It speaks to the alliance's continued deterrent effect that Putin is, notably, not threatening a NATO country. The alliance has provided military support in Afghanistan and for post-9/11 counterterrorism missions. It is a force-multiplier for us to train with and to be interoperable with European forces. Finally, NATO provides a political cohesion that is going to be increasingly useful in resisting Chinese efforts to exploit divisions in Europe.   
 On paper, it makes sense for us to try to woo Russia into breaking with China the way President Richard Nixon split China from the Soviets during the Cold War. Russia shows no interest, though, in such a re-alignment, sharing instead China's revisionist hostility to America's power and influence.  
 If Russia resorts to naked aggression in Ukraine and gets away with it, it will be a blow to the post-Cold War order in Europe. To the extent that Putin is convinced that the West is decrepit and can be bullied, it may tempt him into a direct challenge of NATO in a confrontation that would be magnitudes more dangerous than the current one. And, to spin it out further, if the U.S. ever gives up on NATO, it will undermine all our other commitments around the world and pave the way for China to supplant the U.S. as the world's predominant power.   
 All this counsels being firm and clear-eyed with Russia before we get anywhere close to that point. This needn't preclude an eventual diplomatic deal. If we aren't negotiating with a gun to our head and if there can be some credible assurance of Russian good faith — which may be unrealistic — it's possible to imagine a deal for Ukrainian neutrality on the model of Austria or Finland during the Cold War. In such an arrangement, Ukraine would be functionally part of the West but not formally allied with it.  
 It will make it even harder to get to such an endpoint honorably and while avoiding strategic pitfalls if the American right, traditionally most hawkish and tough-minded on Russia, loses sight of what Vladimir Putin really is, and really wants and why. <https://jewishworldreview.com/0222/lowry020422.php>

**Secure the Vote – Nothing is more important!***By* [*Guest Writer*](https://newswithviews.com/author/guest/)*|February 4th, 2022 By Kat Stansell* Securing our precious right to vote is THE ONLY thing that can save this nation, and the freedoms it provides us. Our lives, quite literally, depend on it. Let that sink in. We are well into the process of losing our Republic to Communism. Let THAT sink in. In 2020, the legal, Constitutional government of America fell to a coup, well orchestrated and perpetrated with the help of fraudulent votes. The only way to take it back, short of the break-up of our Union, or bloody warfare in which both sides will lose, is to secure the vote, once and for all, in every precinct in the nation. The only way to make this happen, is to work from the local level, where each and every one of us has the power to make a difference. We are strongest in our own back yard, where we are surrounded by neighbors and friends who share the lives we lead, and all of the privileges therein. Communication is easier and more direct, less diluted, and people can and will come together in a shared cause. Freedom is the common denominator; your neighbors understand, for their lives depend on it too. Rural people share needs and wants, as do city dwellers. Working for a national group dilutes goals or even nullifies your impact. Today, working at the national level to correct voter fraud is inefficient and, really, ineffective, and almost farcical. Moreover, you don’t want to find yourself helping the feds who want to do you in!  
 When fraud occurs, as it has been for years, it happens right in our own back yards. That is where we must stop it and develop systems and procedures to prevent it from happening again. We know our own towns; we know our own precincts. We know best how to “true” our own vote. Millions of honest Americans, of all colors and income levels have had their votes nullified by the criminals who do this. Millions are needed to help change that. Securing our ballots is key to keeping our freedom. Period. A few examples of what has been happening under our noses should be all the motivation anyone would need.  
 Election fraud has been happening in every state for decades, in everybody’s “back yards”. Those who practice it are very open about it. Its existence is no longer open to debate. They tell us what they have been doing. The most notable confession is the now infamous statement of Joe Biden, in October before the 2020 election, when he told us that “We (the Democrat Party) have developed one of the most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organizations in the history of United States politics.” Joe knew this, of course, because as Obama’s VP, he watched the steal take Florida’s electoral votes in 2012. Remember? The votes trickled in for days AFTER the election, (sure sign of fraud), and the results were not certified for over a week, while the blue vote totals crept up and up, and the red ones barely budged.  
 Many others who have worked the scams to steal the vote, are very forthcoming about the details of their activities as well. Some bragged that they have been at it for 30+ years. My favorite among many was, “Confessions of a Voter Fraud: I Was a Master at Fixing Mail-in Ballots.”, as told to a NY Post writer, Jon Levine, Aug. 20, 2020. The confessor was a “top Democrat operative” working in New Jersey, who stated that voter fraud is “more the rule than the exception.” “He also revealed that such efforts … extend far beyond NJ.” In 2020, he said that “there is no race in New Jersey – from city council to United States Senate – that we haven’t worked on.” “He explained in detail, how mail-in vote fraudsters have been stealing elections for years.” He has trained and led “at least 20 operatives in NJ, NY, and PA…” Those trainees have gone on to train others. This man is a Bernie Sanders supporter and, as such, disparages both parties and works for chaos. He is a Socialist. He wants America to fall, or so he thinks. (All quotes above are from The New American, 9/1/2020, “Democrat Operative ADMITS: …”)  
 There is one more story that I will always remember.  
 Hawkfish, an analytics group working for the Biden campaign and funded by Bloomberg in 2020, stated that “Donald Trump will win in a landslide on Nov. 3, but in subsequent weeks, the mail-in vote will overturn it! (see their own website) They were trying to sell the idea that TRUMP would be responsible for the fraud; that his voters voted more in person, while the left used the mail. Those mail-in ballots, all from the Left they would have you believe, would arrive and be counted AFTER the polls closed, and would carry the day. Hawkfish plainly thought the American public was so stupid that they would believe that hundreds of thousands of ballots which showed up after the polls closed were legitimate and ALL for Biden. They did not count on the many who have come forth since, revealing the truckloads of ballots transported across state lines in the dark of night and counted in closed rooms. Nor did they anticipate the security footage that showed suitcases and boxes of ballots drug from secreted locations, and put into the count. Evidence of fraud was everywhere.  
 Hawkfish termed this “The Red Mirage”. I term it BLATANT FRAUD, as the mail-in sector has always been the easiest and most prevalent arena for insecure ballots and fraud. Real Clear Politics has dozens of statistics on this, countrywide. Remember, too, that the left always accuses the other side of doing what they, themselves, are actually doing. They were planning the Big Steal, so tried to blame it on the other side. It is a behavioral aberration called “Projection” and has proven a great way to see through them. Transparency in action!  
 Many Americans are understandably distressed and angry about all of this. I know I am. Without free and fair elections, we will lose our country. We are nearly there, and we MUST stem this tide of lies and illegal actions which are dealing the fatal blows to our republic. Over the months since November, 2020, people across the country are seeing the picture. Voters of both parties have begun to see what has happened. Although, some may still think that the coup represents good, polls and surveys show that there are fewer and fewer by the day who are so deceived.  
 Realize that those now pretending to be our “government” are those who are removing your freedom to worship, assemble, speak, care for your own bodies, own property, etc. A healthy economy is being deliberately destroyed, and a healthy nation (once first in the world for health care; now LAST since the coming of Fauci control, per RFK Jr. in his book, The Real Anthony Fauci)) is being sickened and killed. Yes, depopulation is truly a goal now. Understand Margaret Sanger, Bill Gates, Anthony Fauci, Klaus Schwab (World Economic Forum) and others. Their goal is to eliminate 500 million people from the earth asap, and they have at times been open about that as well. Remember that one former POTUS told us that the government is not the solution to our problems; rather, it is the problem? Today, government is not only the “problem”, it is the mortal enemy. You want to work with THESE guys to secure your vote?  
 A look at the infamous HR-1 helps us to understand their intent as to the vote. HR-1 was the FIRST bill introduced by Speaker of the House, Pelosi, when the new Congress convened after the coup of 2020. They went right to work on permanent destruction of our voting rights. The bill voids long-standing and simple state voter ID requirements, which, despite fear- mongering by the left, are popular and effective. HR 1 also forces states to allow for ballot-harvesting, by which third party political operatives collect and return mail-in ballots. This destroys the one sacrosanct provision of fair voting – the chain of custody, wherein a marked ballot can be traced from the voter all the way to the count. This fraud-enabling bill also prevents states from cleaning up their voter rolls within 90 days of a federal election.  
 Let me repeat. These are NOT the people whom you want to help to secure the ballots in YOUR state!  
 However blatant their efforts to steal the vote and secure the fraud, the US “government” is now reaching out through conservative organizations, unashamedly asking citizens to join in their efforts to improve the voting process in 2022. This is both laughable and infuriating. For example, a recent issue of its magazine, The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), whose readers are often retirees with time on their hands, recommended that its members join in with the US Election Assistance Commission (USEAC) to work for fair voting in their states. One quick look at this group will tell you why this is a bad idea.  
 The Executive Director of USEAC, Mona Harrington, “assembled a new cyber team to assist in the 2020 elections” during her short tenure with the agency. She has since moved on to CISA, another cyber “security” group dealing with elections. This is not exactly a notable accomplishment, considering the cyber tampering that occurred quite blatantly during the 2020 election cycle. Also, the header on the USEAC’s own website (eac.gov) has a tab on the top, allowing the reader to translate its contents into CHINESE. Why on earth does a “dot-gov” website, ostensibly working to improve our American elections, need Chinese translation? That was all I needed to see. These are NOT the people you want to help, or whom want to help you.  
 Every American needs to know that securing the vote in their local communities is the sine qua non of our having a future as a free nation. AMAC was on target there, but not in their recommendation of a federal government group, born and raised in Congress, as a legitimate election security organization. There are citizens’ groups in every state who are doing good work. Contact yours. Get off the couch and out the door to join them. Keep your efforts at home where you have the most impact, and less chance of accidentally helping those who are working for the destruction of this great nation. Our Republic can not stand another frontal assault. Our ballots must be secured, and election fraud must stop now.  
 Share this article. <https://newswithviews.com/secure-the-vote-nothing-is-more-important/>

**The Anti-Defamation League and Amnesty International**

*02/04/2022 Caroline Glick* One of the curiouser responses to Amnesty International’s Israel Apartheid report this week came from the Anti-Defamation League. Monday, the heads of Amnesty held a press conference in Israel’s capital Jerusalem. In it they presented the main “findings” of the “investigation” they conducted regarding the status of Israel’s existence.  
 It works out that after years of “careful study,” Amnesty’s entirely professional “researchers,” determined that Israel has no right to exist. The Law of Return, which grants automatic citizenship to Jews after two thousand years of homeless wanderings, is a type of apartheid. Israel’s Jewish identity is apartheid, they said.  
 The purchase of private land by Jews in sovereign Israel and in Judea and Samaria is apartheid. Use of government land by Jews is apartheid. Enforcement of the laws of the state towards non-Jews – you guessed it – is apartheid in the eyes of Amnesty’s hardnosed, totally unbiased “investigators.”  
 Amnesty concluded as well that since Israel is an apartheid state that has no right to exist, Israel is guilty of crimes against humanity and, (it almost goes without saying), of war crimes. Unlike the wretched, cruel, greedy and avaricious Jews, the Palestinians are as pure as the driven snow. The word “terror” only appears three times in Amnesty’s 210-page tome and terror is never mentioned as a means to explain any defensive action that Israel has undertaken.  
 As was to be expected, Amnesty used its new “Jews are Criminals” report to renew its call for Israel and its citizens to be tried for war crimes before the International Criminal Court in the Hague. The “human rights” group also rode its blood libel wave to renew its call for economic sanctions and an arms embargo against Israel. Amnesty capped its bloodlust off with a call for Israel’s destruction through the immigration of millions of hostile foreign-born Arabs allegedly descended from Arabs who left Israel during the 1948 pan-Arab invasion of the nascent Jewish state.  
 Amnesty’s report was roundly condemned as anti-Semitic propaganda by Israel’s Foreign Ministry and Jewish groups in the U.S. and worldwide. You don’t need to be an anti-Semitism researcher (or a Jew) to recognize that Amnesty’s report flowed from the same hate-infested swamp as the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.   
 And this brings us to the ADL’s response. The Anti-Defamation League, which has an annual budget of around $100 million is supposed to be the leading Jewish organization in the Diaspora in the fight against Jew hatred. But Amnesty’s declaration of war against the Jewish state placed the ADL in a bind. Just a bit over a year ago, the ADL defended Amnesty.  
 In October 2020, then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced his plan to list Amnesty, Human Rights Watch and Oxfam as anti-Semitic organizations due to their efforts to advance the anti-Semitic boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against Israel. Pompeo’s plan was in keeping with the Trump administration’s overall policy for fighting anti-Semitism. In December 2019, then President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order that provided civil rights protection to Jewish students persecuted by BDS campaigns on their campuses.  
 Given the central role Amnesty and other phony human rights groups play in the political war for the destruction of the largest Jewish community in the world, Pompeo’s planned move was not just reasonable, it was imperative. But rather than applaud him for his resolve, the ADL attacked Pompeo and his plan.  
 When word broke that Pompeo was about the designate the three groups as anti-Semitic, the ADL released a statement aimed at undermining and blocking his move. The statement declared, “We oppose broadly applying the anti-Semitism label to these human rights organizations; doing so is neither accurate nor helpful to the fight against anti-Semitism. Rather, this move would politicize the fight against anti-Semitism.”  
 A month later Pompeo made it the official policy of the State Department to treat organizations that support BDS as anti-Semitic groups. But by that time, Trump had lost his reelection bid, and the wind had come out of the sails. Pompeo’s statement did not mention which specific groups were anti-Semitic. So thanks in large part to the ADL, Amnesty and its anti-Semitic comrades dodged the bullet.  
 On the surface, the ADL’s condemnation of the Amnesty report could have been written by the Zionist Organization of America. But a close look at the ADL’s response makes clear that the organization which is supposed to lead the struggle against anti-Semitism, hasn’t changed its position since it defended Amnesty from Pompeo’s charge of anti-Semitism.  
 The ADL had a great deal of criticism over Amnesty’s report, but it engaged in circus-style contortionism to avoid saying the plain truth: Amnesty’s report was anti-Semitic.  
 As the ADL put it, Amnesty’s report was “an effort to demonize Israel and undermine its legitimacy as a Jewish and democratic state. In an environment of rising anti-Jewish hate, this type of report is not only inaccurate but also irresponsible and likely will lead to intensified anti-Semitism around the world.”  
 So the report wasn’t anti-Semitic *per se*. It was simply irresponsible. Amnesty didn’t factor in how its blood libels might be interpreted by people who (unlike Amnesty) actually hate Jews.  
 The ADL statement maintained its line – that Amnesty was irresponsible, not bigoted against Jews — through to the end. The statement concluded, “Amnesty International’s rhetoric is irresponsible. These are not simply abstract words but the kind of spurious charges that, time and again, have placed Jews in danger around the world.”  
 There are two explanations that pop to mind for why an organization that is supposed to be dedicated to fighting Jew hatred turned itself into a joke to dismiss a call for the annihilation of the largest Jewish community in the world (Israel) by a massively powerful international organization as merely “irresponsible rhetoric.”  
 The first way to explain the ADL’s behavior is that this is an attempted cover up. The fact is that the ADL facilitated the Amnesty report, as well as similar reports published by Human Rights Watch and B’Tselem last year. All three reports libeled and demonized Israel as an “apartheid state.”  
 When the ADL torpedoed Pompeo’s plan to designate Amnesty, HRW and Oxfam as anti-Semitic organizations, it gave them a carte blanche to escalate their anti-Semitic campaigns. Had the ADL put aside its progressive politics and hatred for Trump for just a moment to support rather than undermine Pompeo, it is highly likely that these groups would have reconsidered their plans to escalate their war against the Jews. The cost-benefit analysis of siding with terrorists and Nazi-like Jew haters from Ramallah to Tehran against the Jews would likely have looked very different once the U.S. State Department designated these anti-Semitic groups as anti-Semitic groups. Moreover had Pompeo gone through with his plan, even if Amnesty et. al, had stayed on course and published their apartheid slanders, the impact of those slanders would have been a weak flutter of the waves they are making today.  
 And the Jews – from Israel’s Foreign Ministry to the last Jewish group in the Diaspora — would have had a lot better ammunition in their efforts to discredit the tsunami of lies flowing out from these groups. Given the ADL’s role in facilitating the massive escalation of the faux human rights’ communities’ war against the Jews, it makes sense that it has decided to pretend that nothing is happening.  
 Another possible explanation for the ADL’s refusal to acknowledge that Amnesty International is an anti-Semitic organization and that its “Jews are Nazis” report is endemically anti-Semitic is that the ADL has abandoned its mission of fighting anti-Semitism and replaced it with a mission of advancing anti-Semitism – at least of the progressive variety.  
 This week, Daniel Greenfield from Frontpage Magazine revealed that the ADL hired an activist named Tema Smith to serve as its director of Jewish outreach. Smith’s hire is newsworthy because Smith has a long record of anti-Israel, pro-terror and anti-Jewish postings on social media. In other words, she has a long record of anti-Semitic activism, which Greenfield documented.  
 Consider a few examples of Smith’s publishing history.  
 During the Hamas war against Israel in 2014, Smith posted and endorsed an article that justified Hamas’s kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers and its massive missile onslaught against Israeli population centers.  
 In 2020 she wrote, “Here’s the thing: Jews \*have\* to be ok with Palestinians \*explaining\* why some turn to terrorism.”  
 On several occasions, Smith insisted that there is no black anti-Semitism and that it is racist for Jews to claim that there is. She said that Jewish opposition to the deeply anti-Semitic Critical Race Theory stems from Jewish racism.  
 As for Islamic Jew haters, Smith has on several occasions defended the jihadist who brutally murdered 66-year-old Sarah Halimi, a retired nursery school teacher in her Paris apartment and then threw her out the window.  
 The ADL’s new Jewish outreach director even attacked the U.S. Holocaust Museum for its criticism of progressive superstar Cong. Alexandra Ocasio Cortez after Cortez obscenely compared detention centers for illegal aliens along the border with Mexico to Nazi concentration camps.  
 In its squirming condemnation of the Amnesty report, the ADL noted rightly that by negating the Jews’ right to sovereignty within Israel’s 1949 armistice lines, Amnesty “not only delegitimizes the Israeli state enterprise and the Jewish right to self-determination in its historic homeland, but also undermines the vision of a mutually negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that will provide security, dignity, and self-determination to both peoples.”  
 There is no question that this is correct. The new rallying cry of “Israeli Apartheid” now shared by anti-Semitic activists in the West who falsely present themselves as human rights activists and Bedouin terrorists and rioters in the Negev has killed whatever was left of the so-called “two-state solution.” There is only space for one state west of the Jordan River.  
 The ADL’s pathological refusal to state the truth that Amnesty International and the miserable report it issued this week are anti-Jewish, like its decision to hire Smith the anti-Semite as its outreach director to the Jewish community indicate that in the campaign against the existence of the State of Israel, the ADL is not on the side of the Jews. <https://carolineglick.com/the-anti-defamation-league-and-amnesty-international/>

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**ARUTZ SHEVA**

**Liberman to present plan to stop price increases**

***Finance Minister expected to announce plan to curb the continuation of rising prices.***

*Israel National News 04.02.22 22:11*

As the prices of electricity, gasoline and water soar and the public is exerting pressure on companies to stop raising the prices of their products, Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman is expected to present a plan next week to curb the continuation of rising prices, Channel 12 News reported on Friday.

Among the measures expected to be included in the plan presented by Liberman: Lowering taxes in order to reduce the cost of additional products, subsidizing part of the increase in electricity prices so that they will increase by only 2-3%, and lowering taxes for low- and middle-wage incomes.

The Ministry of Finance is also debating whether to lower taxes as a countermeasure to the rising cost of living. The Ministry is seriously considering lowering taxes through more credit points, using negative income tax grants to tax negative income or by lowering income tax brackets.

Reports of the plan come a day after [the Osem-Nestle company announced](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321706) that it will cancel the price increase of its products completely, after having previously announcing only that the increase [will be postponed by three months](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321572).

The company noted that "this decision was made despite the fact that in the past year the company has experienced an unprecedented cumulative increase in production inputs and operating costs."

Earlier this week, tens of thousands of people [shared a post](https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321491) from the Facebook page of the *Channel 13* program “Hazinor”, which called for a boycott of pasta made by Osem due to the high price difference between their pastas and pastas made by competing brands.

A day later, Osem’s leadership met with Liberman. During that meeting, it was agreed upon that, during the next three months, there will be an in-depth examination of various ways to reduce the price increases of the company's products. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321753>

**Democratic congresswoman allegedly bribed to take anti-Israel positions**

***Chicago-area congresswoman under investigation on suspicion of bribery, allegedly promising to hire Palestinian-American as staffer.***

*Ron Kampeas, JTA 04.02.22 07:28*

Marie Newman Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

An alleged bid to get a freshman congresswoman to adopt pro-Palestinian stances is at the center of a bribery scandal dating back to 2018.

Rep. Marie Newman, a Chicago-area Democrat, is under investigation by the Office of Congressional Ethics for allegedly promising Iymen Chehade, a Palestinian-American academic, a job on her congressional staff if he agreed not to run against her in a primary.

The Daily Beast on Thursday reported on an email from Chehade in which he outlines his conditions for assuming a role on her staff, should she be elected in 2020. Chehade requested a role as a foreign policy adviser with an emphasis on the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

The October 2018 email asks Newman to “commit” to a number of Israel-critical and pro-Palestinian postures, including opposing legislation targeting the boycott Israel movement, opposing defense funding to Israel in addition to funds that are required by law and ending Israel’s detention of Palestinian minors.

The promise allegedly came in 2018, after Newman failed to unseat Dan Lipinski, a conservative Democrat, in a primary challenge. Newman, who is backed by a political action committee affiliated with J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group, ousted Lipinski in 2020.

Newman failed to hire Chehade as her congressional adviser, a job that is paid for with government funds, and he sued her last year. They settled for undisclosed terms, and he subsequently signed onto her campaign as a foreign affairs adviser. Campaign advisers are paid out of donations to candidates.

Newman has denied any improprieties. Chehade will not comment, citing the non-disclosure component of his settlement with Newman. Chehade is currently running for Congress in Illinois’ redrawn third district.

Newman notably has embraced some of the policies Chehade outlined in his 2018 email: She was one of just nine members of the U.S. House of Representatives who voted last year against $1 billion in additional funds for Israel’s Iron Dome antimissile system. She also backs a bill by Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., that would withhold funds from Israel based on the number of Palestinian minors in detention.

Because of redistricting, Newman will likely face another Democratic incumbent, Sean Casten, in a primary this year. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/321713> [Chicago politics at its best. Corruption is epidemic in the city. – rdb]

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